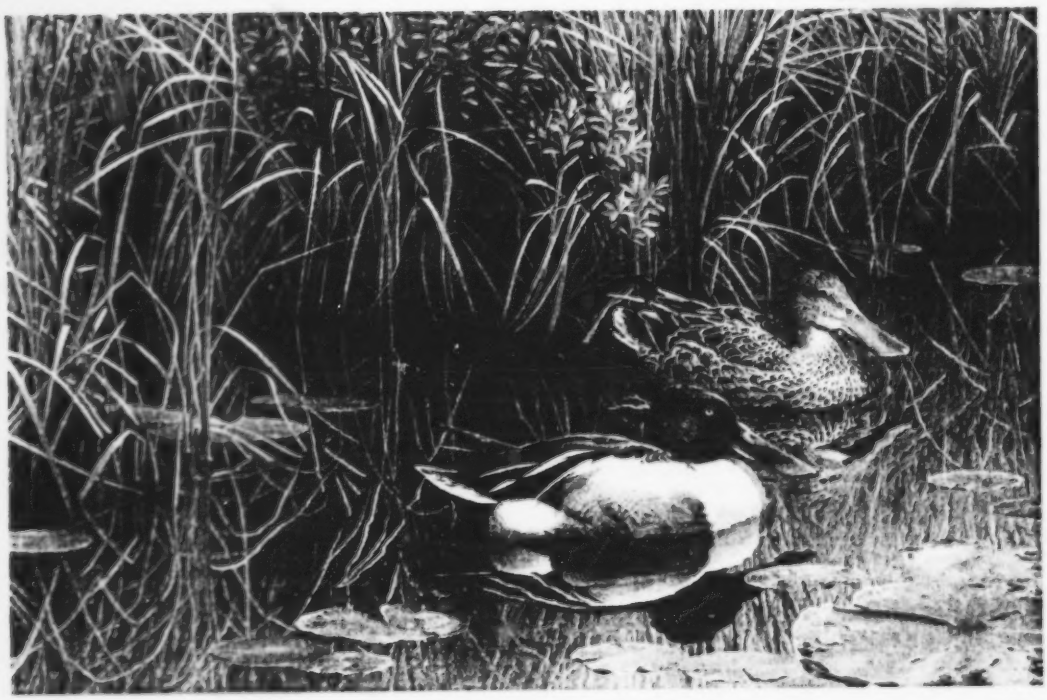
Migratory Game Bird Hunting Regulations in Canada

July 2004

Canadian Wildlife Service
Waterfowl Committee

CWS Migratory Birds Regulatory Report Number 12



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HELPFUL TIP:

Canadians may be exposed to the West Nile Virus when bird-watching, hunting or handling migratory birds and other wild game. Environment Canada recommends the following website, maintained by Health Canada, for information about minimizing the risk of exposure.

http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/pphb-dgspsp/wnv-vwn/bio_e.html (English)
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Editor:

This report was prepared by the Canadian Wildlife Service Waterfowl Committee, and edited by Eric T. Reed and Kathryn M. Dickson (CWS, National Office).

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Comments:

Comments regarding this report, the regulation-setting process or other items relating to national migratory game bird concerns should be sent to: Director General, Canadian Wildlife Service, Ottawa, Ontario, K1A 0H3.

Region-specific comments should be sent to the appropriate Regional Director, Canadian Wildlife Service, Environmental Conservation Service, at the following addresses:

Atlantic Region: 17 Waterfowl Lane, P.O. Box 6227, Sackville, NB, E4L 1G6
Quebec Region: 1141 route de l'Église, P.O. Box 10100, Sainte-Foy, QC, G1V 4H5
Ontario Region: 4905 Dufferin Street, Downsview, ON, M3H 5T4.
Prairie & Northern Region: Twin Atria No.2, 4999-98 Avenue, Edmonton, AB, T6B 2X3
Pacific & Yukon Region: 5421 Robertson Road, R.R. #1, Delta, BC, V4K 3N2

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Background

Canadian hunting regulations for migratory game birds are reviewed annually by Environment Canada, with input from the provinces and territories and a range of other interested stakeholders. As part of this process, the Canadian Wildlife Service (CWS) produces three reports each year. The November report *Population Status of Migratory Game Birds in Canada* contains population and other biological information on migratory game birds, and thus provides the scientific basis for management. The December report *Proposals to Amend the Canadian Migratory Birds Regulations* outlines the proposed changes to the annual hunting regulations, as well as other proposed amendments to the *Migratory Birds Regulations*. Proposals for hunting regulations are developed in accordance with the *Objectives and Guidelines for the Establishment of National Regulations for Migratory Game Bird Hunting* (Appendix B). These two reports are distributed to organizations and individuals with an interest in migratory game bird conservation, to provide an opportunity for input to the development of hunting regulations in this country. The third report, *Migratory Game Bird Hunting Regulations in Canada*, issued in July, summarizes the hunting regulations for the upcoming hunting season.

The process for development of regulations in Canada requires that any changes be in the form of final proposals by early March of each year. That means that regulations must be set without the benefit of knowledge about the breeding conditions and production forecasts of the coming year. This does not usually present difficulties because the hunting regulations are based on trends over several years, but in some cases the results from recent harvest surveys or breeding population surveys conducted in May and June will indicate that changes in the national approach are needed to ensure conservation of migratory game birds. **In this case, the Canadian Wildlife Service will issue a bulletin updating these regulations.**

Annual Schedule for the Development of Hunting Regulations

The annual schedule is based on the requirement to have the annual hunting regulations made into law by early June each year:

- Early November – The November report, containing biological information, was distributed by CWS-HQ.
- November and December – Jurisdictions developed proposals for hunting regulations in coordination with CWS Regional Directors.
- December 15 – CWS Regions provided to CWS-HQ proposed changes to hunting regulations (with justification) for the upcoming year, as well as other information to include in the December report, including advance notice on items for future years. Descriptions of zone changes, when any, are sent by CWS Regions to the Surveyor General, for review, approval and translation.
- Early January – CWS-HQ distributed the December report, containing regulation proposals, to allow for public, inter-regional and international consultation.
- February 24 – Replies from consultation were due at CWS Regional Directors' offices, who ensure distribution to the provinces and territories.
- Mid-January through mid-February – CWS Regions worked with the provinces and territories to finalize regulation proposals.
- March 12 – Final proposals, as well as the final text of the regulations and regulation summaries, were sent by CWS Regional Directors to CWS-HQ.
- April through May – CWS-HQ undertook the process to prepare legal documents and obtained approvals of regulatory proposals.
- June – Final hunting regulations, adjusted as necessary to account for public comment, became law.
- July 15 – Hunting regulation summaries are available at Canada Post Outlets.
- Mid-July – CWS-HQ finalized the July report containing the final proposals for hunting regulations and the hunting regulation summaries.
- End of August – Regulation consolidations are available to CWS Regions.

Note to United States Readers

The annual cycle of regulation development in Canada is earlier than that in the United States. To meet the requirements of the Canadian regulatory process, proposals for hunting regulations must be finalized no later than early March each year. Canadian representatives at the summer Flyway Council meetings and other hearings are not reporting on what is being considered, but on what has been passed into law.

2003 BREEDING POPULATION SURVEYS - Preliminary Information

Information from field programs undertaken in the spring of 2004 is provided for areas from which new data were available at the time of writing. It should be considered to be preliminary. The results of these, and other, 2004 breeding population surveys will be described in detail and compared to historical data sets in the November 2004 report, Status of Migratory Game Birds in Canada.

DUCKS

British Columbia ***(Breault pers. comm.)***

The Cooperative Wetland Survey is an inter-agency project initiated in 1987 that aims to characterize abundance of breeding and migrating waterfowl in the wetlands of Interior British Columbia. The survey involves six replicated counts of waterbirds on each of approximately 400 wetlands located on private property, native, provincial and federal lands. Approximately 290 of these wetlands have been monitored consistently since 1988. For analytical purposes, those wetlands are referred to as "Trend Wetlands", as they allow long-term comparisons of waterfowl abundance over a fixed amount of habitat.

The winter of 2003/2004 was characterised by mild temperatures and lower than average precipitation in the latter part of the winter throughout southern British Columbia. The gradual thawing of the snow resulted in reduced surface runoff and May water levels at low elevation wetlands were the lowest ever observed in the course of this survey. Breeding habitat conditions were the worst ever recorded.

The total number of ducks observed on Trend Wetlands in 2004 was 24% lower than in 2003 (also a drought year), and 17% below the (1988-2003) Long-Term Average (LTA). Total diving ducks were 23% lower than in 2003 and 8% below the LTA. Total dabbling ducks were 24% lower than in 2003 and 35% lower than the LTA.

The total number of duck breeding pairs was 11% lower than in 2003 and 22% lower than the LTA. For diving ducks, the number of breeding pairs was 8% lower than in 2003 and 4% lower than the LTA. The total number of dabbling duck pairs was 15% lower than in 2003 and 38% lower than the LTA.

Canada Goose total numbers were 9% higher than in 2003 and 41% above the LTA. The number of breeding pairs of Canada Geese was 68% higher than in 2003 and 47% higher than the LTA.

The counts are believed to reflect the fifth consecutive year with dry conditions in Central BC. The dry and warm conditions observed in late April and early May were likely associated with an early migration of ducks nesting further north and with early breeding for some species. The 2004 survey saw the highest ever number of wetlands that were either completely dry or with the marsh area on dry grounds and these conditions were likely responsible for the decrease in breeding pairs.

This survey targets a fixed number of permanent and seasonal wetlands and the results are not adjusted with an annual index of pond availability. Work is currently under way to present the current data in terms of waterfowl density for wetlands of different sizes and for various ecological regions of the province. This information will be linked to a provincial estimate of wetland abundance (by size class) to produce province-wide breeding population estimates.

Prairie Canada ***(F.D. Caswell and M.H. Schuster, unpubl. rep., 2004.)***

Results from the May 2004 Waterfowl Survey conducted in the southern prairies (Strata 26-40 & 75-76) indicate that wetland habitat conditions were significantly worse than the exceptional increase observed in 2003, in spite of a significant spring blizzard which hit the prairies on May 11

Approximately 2.5 million ponds were recorded in 2004, 28% fewer than last spring, and 15% below the long term (1955-2003) average. The number of breeding ducks observed this spring decreased by 28% to 9.7 million from the 2003 estimates and remain 26% below the long term average.

Mallard and Blue-winged Teal remain the most numerous dabbling duck species in Prairie Canada although Mallards were down by 20%, and Blue-winged Teal were down 31%, compared to the 2003 population estimates With the exception of last year, pintails continue to decline across the prairies. Estimates indicate there were 48% fewer pintails in southern Prairie Canada this year compared to 2003. Canvasbacks were down by 25%, Redhead Ducks by 21% and Lesser Scaup by 28%, in comparison to the estimates in 2003.

There is expected to be a decrease in waterfowl production in 2004 throughout the southern Prairies and a "over-flight" of ducks from these traditional breeding areas to more northerly habitats due to the generally poor water and weather conditions this spring .

Eastern Canada ***(Bordage, Bateman pers. comm.; Ross, 2004)***

The boreal region of eastern Canada has been surveyed by helicopters since 1990 as part of the Black Duck Joint Venture (BDJV) of the North American Waterfowl Management Plan (NAWMP). From 1990-2002, trend analysis of breeding ground survey results showed significant increases range-wide for pairs of Black Ducks, Mallards, Wood Ducks, Ring-necked Ducks, Hooded Mergansers, Common Goldeneyes, Green-winged Teal and Canada Geese. The increase for Black Ducks was seen in strata 1, 2 and 3 (Atlantic Highlands, eastern and central Boreal Shield respectively), while there was no change in stratum 4 (western Boreal Shield). Mallard trends showed significant increases in strata 1 and 4. In the Atlantic Highlands, pairs of Hooded Mergansers and Ring-necked Ducks also increased significantly. There were significant declines range-wide over the period in Blue-winged Teal and Bufflehead numbers but these two species are uncommon breeders in the boreal region of eastern Canada. (Canadian Wildlife Service Waterfowl Committee, 2001). American Wigeon declined in stratum 1, but it is not an abundant breeder there.

The helicopter survey was carried out once again in 2004, in Newfoundland and Labrador, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Quebec and Ontario. The breeding waterfowl helicopter survey was carried out in Nova Scotia between 29 April and 01 May. The New Brunswick survey was started on 05 May and finished the 12. The Gaspé plots were flown on 09 and 10 May. Spring conditions in the Maritimes in 2004 were of average timing although less snow was encountered than on most previous surveys. All ice and snow were gone from the plots. This lack of snow and ice was particularly noticeable in northern New Brunswick (and Gaspé) plots where some ice cover in large lakes is common. Leaf-out was not well advanced at time of survey on any of the plots. Water level was lower than expected in many lakes and brooks, a situation attributed to the low snow accumulation in many areas of the Maritime Provinces in the winter of 2003-04. Timing of the survey was judged to be appropriate for Black Ducks based on the pair to single ratio. In Québec, last summer (2003) was cool and wet resulting in average waterfowl production. Fall weather was normal, and winter precipitation and temperature were average. Spring 2004 was late and cool, but dry. Overall the survey conditions in May and June were good.

The 2004 survey of Black Ducks in central and northeastern Ontario was undertaken between 6 and 24 May. The survey period had cool to mild temperatures and no ice was encountered on waterbodies. Weather conditions were generally good with winds mostly light to moderate. A small amount of snow was occasionally seen in the bush but all shorelines were open. Central Ontario warmed steadily but slightly more slowly than normal, and ice on the wetlands was essentially gone by late April. Northern Ontario remained slightly cooler than average throughout the survey. Despite the cool temperatures, there was no delay in availability of habitat to nesting waterfowl on their return. Conditions were also slightly cooler and wetter throughout June. Winter was not as cold as last year and snow levels were moderately high in most of the survey area. Spring water levels appeared slightly higher than normal.

Preliminary analyses of the 2004 survey counts are now underway. The number of indicated pairs of Black Ducks was lower than in 2003 in both Nova Scotia and New Brunswick. In Nova Scotia the 2004 density of indicated pairs of Black Ducks (23.7 indicated pairs per 100 km^2) was 7 percent below the long term mean and in New Brunswick, the 2004 density (22.6 indicated pairs per 100 km^2) was 6 percent below the mean. Numbers of pairs of Green-winged Teal were above the long term average in both provinces. Ring-necked Duck numbers were slightly below the long term mean in New Brunswick but above the mean in Nova Scotia. Breeding Canada Geese and Mallards continue to increase in New Brunswick and Nova Scotia.

Similarly, the mean density on plots in Ontario was 15.38 indicated pairs per 100km^2 compared to the 2003 value of 16.53 and the 1990-2003 average of 19.86 (Ross 2004). There is no obvious explanation for this drop which continues a decrease started last year. The proportion of plots without black ducks was also at a record high level this year. Counts were generally variable for the other waterfowl species, most of which were in the upper ranges of the values so far encountered (Ross 2004). Total breeding density of all waterfowl (160.58) was the second highest recorded to date.

The 2004 waterfowl survey of the boreal forest in Québec was undertaken between May 7th and June 11th. A total of 199 066 indicated breeding pairs ± 21 530 (SE) dabbling ducks and 254 225 IBPs ± 25 600 diving ducks, for a total duck population of 453 291 IBPs ± 39 831 (SE) was recorded in 2004. This was respectively the third highest count of dabbling ducks, the highest count of diving ducks, and the second highest total duck count since 1990. The 2004 American Black Duck population estimate of 131 117 IBPs ± 11 120 (SE) was slightly higher (3.2%) than the 2003 estimate and well above (38.6%) the 1990-1999 long-term average (Bordage, pers. comm.).

GEESE

Geese and Swans in the western Canadian Arctic *(Hines, pers. comm.)*

Lesser Snow Geese (Western Arctic Population)

More than 95% of Snow Geese in the western Canadian Arctic nest at Banks Island. The number of Snow Geese nesting on Banks Island increased from about 100 000 birds in 1960 to over half a million birds in 2002.

The remaining western arctic Snow Geese nest at small colonies on the mainland at the Anderson River and Kendall Island Migratory Bird Sanctuaries. The mainland populations have varied in size from year to year (Kendall Island) or declined (Anderson River) during the last decade. During a survey in 2004 that included the two mainland nesting areas, it was observed that there were few nesting geese at either the Kendall Island or Anderson River Bird Sanctuaries This possibly reflected the very late spring that occurred throughout much of the Western Canadian Arctic in 2004. Production of snow geese on the mainland will be almost nil. On Banks Island, local Inuvialuit residents indicate that spring snow melt occurred at least a week later than average and that the number of geese nesting at the Egg River colony was much lower than expected. Therefore, it is expected that production will be lower than average on Banks Island this year.

Greater White-fronted Geese (Mid-continent Population)

In the Western Arctic, White-fronted Geese nest mainly on the mainland. During aerial surveys in the Mackenzie Delta, Tuktoyaktuk Peninsula, Liverpool Bay, and Parry Peninsula area in June 2004, evidence pointed toward a modest nesting effort for White-fronted Geese. Numerous groups of failed breeders and/or non-breeders were observed during this survey. Given those observations and the relatively late spring that occurred in the Western Canadian Arctic in 2004, production of white-fronts is expected to be somewhat below average.

Canada Geese (Short-grass Prairie Population)

Canada geese are far less abundant on the Western Arctic mainland than are white-fronted geese. Nevertheless, productivity of Canada Geese appears to have paralleled that of white-fronts in this area in the past, and thus a low nesting effort and below average production is expected for 2004. The significant numbers of flocked hon-breeders observed during the mainland surveys in 2004 support that suggestion. On Victoria Island, where many of SGPP Canada Geese in the Western Arctic breed, CWS biologists observed good numbers of nesting Canada Geese despite the relatively late spring there. Thus, overall productivity of Canada Geese from the Western Arctic could be about average.

Tundra Swans (Eastern Population)

The Mackenzie Delta Region and nearby parts of the Western Arctic mainland are one of the most important breeding areas for Tundra Swans in North America. Surveys carried out in this region in 2004 suggested reasonable numbers of nesting swans. Thus, despite the late snow melt in 2004, near average production could be expected this year.

Wrangel Island Lesser Snow Geese *(Baranyuk, pers. comm.)*

The colony of Lesser Snow Geese on Wrangel Island, Russia, is monitored by Russian biologists who have documented a decline from 120 000 nesting birds in 1970 to fewer than half that number in the 1990s (Kerbes, 1999). This population is of great interest to Canada because all of these birds migrate through western Canada in fall and spring and more than half the population winters in the Fraser Delta (BC) and the nearby Skagit Delta (WA). V. Baranyuk reported a moderate year in 2004 for snow geese on the island. The main colony has 25 000 to 30 000 nests (similar to last year) but nest success is expected to be lower than last year.

Geese in the central Canadian Arctic *(Alisauskas, pers. comm.)*

Relative to an early snow melt at Karrak Lake in 2004 compared to other years, arrival and nesting by both Ross's and Snow Geese was delayed. There appeared to be heavier snow cover in Nunavut, far to the south of Queen Maud Gulf, in an east-west band that delayed nesting at locations such as West Coast Hudson Bay and La Perouse Bay by 2-3 weeks. It is suspected that this snow cover prevented migrating geese from continuing to the central arctic, even though snow cover at the destination was favourable for nest initiation. At Karrak Lake, the mean nest initiation date from 1991 through 2003 was 10 June for Ross's Geese, and 9 June for Lesser Snow Geese. This year nest initiation was about 18 June. Relative to a mean clutch size of 3.3 and 3.5 for Ross's and Snow Geese from 1991-2003, preliminary estimates of

clutch size from a small but random subsample of nests at Karrak Lake in 2004 was 3.2 eggs/nest for Ross's (n=66) and 3.1 eggs/nest for Snow Geese (n=58).

The area of terrestrial habitat occupied by nesting geese at Karrak Lake increased from 177 km^2 used in 2003 to 201 km^2 in 2004. Similarly, at the East McNaughton colony of light geese, about 90 km east of Karrak Lake, the area of terrestrial habitat occupied by nesting geese increased from 173 km^2 to 214 km^2. Although there appeared to be widespread evidence of avian cholera in 2003, few dead birds were seen during nesting in 2004 so far. Weather conditions during incubation so far were highly variable, including snowfall the first few days in July. So, even if favourable weather conditions persist during brood rearing, reduced clutch size, and relatively late nesting with generally unfavourable weather conditions during incubation leading to reduced nest success, suggests that age ratios in Ross's geese and Snow Geese from Queen Maud Gulf will be lower than average.

Waterfowl in the eastern Canadian Arctic ***(Mallory, Gilchrist, pers. comm.)***

The spring of 2004 was late, perhaps by as much as 2 weeks. Snow cover was 90% in many areas of western Baffin Island, Southampton Island and Coats Island in the second week of June. Open water was found along southern Baffin Island by mid-June, but most of Hudson Strait, Hudson Bay and Foxe Basin were covered with 80% or more ice. In contrast to 2003, Lancaster Sound was ice-covered through the winter, but much of the area was open water by early June. Canada Geese were numerous along eastern Baffin Island, with the first birds observed in late May along Frobisher Bay (later than 2003). Greater Snow Geese and High Arctic Brant arrived on northern Devon Island at the end of May, and Common and King Eiders were observed in the open water between Ellesmere and Devon Islands by May 15. Overall, the 2004 spring phenology appears to be average for the High Arctic, but late in the eastern Low Arctic.

Greater Snow Geese ***(Lefebvre, Gauthier pers. comm.)***

The annual spring photographic inventory methodology was changed in 2004, in order to get a more accurate estimate in the face of the expanding spring staging distribution of Greater Snow Geese. In 2004, five aircrafts were used (instead of the usual 3) simultaneously during one day of survey (compared to 2 separate surveys in recent years). The preliminary estimate of the size of the 2004 spring population, counted during staging in the St. Lawrence River valley, was 957 617 ± 81 117, an increase of over 40% from the 2003 estimate. Such an increase cannot be accounted for solely by good production in 2003. It is likely that the revised methodology of the survey allowed a more complete coverage of area used by geese and better timing, allowing a larger proportion of the population to be counted at the roost sites. This estimate of the spring population should be viewed as very preliminary until CWS scientists have had more time to look into possible sources of bias. Accuracy of the estimate will be verified and examined in historical context in the November 2004 Report on the Population Status of Migratory Game Birds.

At Bylot Island, where there is a field crew conducting an intensive study of Greater Snow Goose reproduction, spring arrived early but snow and cold temperature at the beginning of June, during nest initiation, have had a negative impact on reproduction. There is an exceptionally high number of Snowy Owl nests in the goose colonies. Most geese have nested near Snowy Owl nests. These geese show an early peak nest initiation date (June 10th) and have suffered less predation compared to the geese that are nesting far from Snowy Owls (peak nest initiation: June 15th, average of the last 15 years: June 12th) Due to a reduced nesting effort, we predict that reproductive success will be lower than last year. Weather conditions during the hatching period have been generally good (sunny and warm on most days), so initial survival of goslings should be good.

Breeding Conditions for geese in West Hudson Bay, McConnell River region, Nunavut ***(J. Caswell, pers. comm.)***

Spring along the Hudson Bay coast near the McConnell River arrived 3 weeks later than in 2003 with most Canada Geese and the first Snow Geese arriving at the start of June. Weather through May and June was cold and cloudy with occasional flurries. Ross's Geese began arriving at McConnell River by 8 June with the colony still 75% covered with snow. Lesser Snow and Ross's geese started laying on 11 and 14 June, respectively. Egg collection by local Inuit was light relative to last year as the geese arrived late and initiated nests soon thereafter. Ross's Geese started incubating near 20 June, exactly 3 weeks later than in 2003, with hatch expected near 11 July. The nesting colony, located 1-6 kilometres north of the McConnell River is 20 square kilometres, 4 larger than last year. Nest density is slightly lower than last year however, a preliminary breeding population estimate indicates 5-6% growth.

Breeding Conditions for geese nesting in Hudson and James Bay lowlands (*K. Abraham ,L. Walton, pers. comm.*)

Snow melt in 2004 was late (southern James Bay) to very late (northern James Bay and Hudson Bay, Ontario). The Moose and Albany rivers were open by about 7 May and the lowlands at these latitudes were mostly snow free. However, ice still covered all the major rivers to the north (Attawapiskat, Winisk, Severn) and snow cover in the northern two-thirds of the HBL was nearly 100% until at least 17 May. The Winisk River and Severn River opened by 25 May and 28 May, respectively, but the tundra along the Hudson Bay coast at Winisk and east to Cape Henrietta Maria was still 95% snow covered on 25 May. Some Canada Geese arrived in the lowlands on schedule in mid to late April, but a reverse migration to the snow line may have occurred, as residents of Peawanuck and Ft. Severn reported few birds on the coast until late May. Few snow geese were reported along the Hudson Bay coast until late May. Near Moosonee at the south end of the lowlands, unusually large numbers of geese were noted staging throughout May. Inspection in early June showed severe grubbing in that area. There was a reduced nesting effort by SJBP Canada geese on Akimiski Island (down about 30% from the average number of nests) with smaller than normal clutches, and the majority of Canada goose hatch occurred fairly synchronously between 13 and 21 June. Snow geese on Akimiski hatched during the same period. At Burntpoint Creek, in Polar Bear Provincial Park on the Hudson Bay Coast of Ontario, nesting effort was greatly reduced compared to 2001-2003 (down ca. 75% from average). Egg-laying for these MVP Canada geese likely occurred during the last week of May and first week of June, as did Snow Geese egg-laying at Cape Henrietta Maria, where distribution and colony size appeared average on 11 June. In contrast, snow geese had not yet started nesting at the Pen Islands (Hudson Bay coast on the Manitoba and Ontario border) on 10 June. In general, goose nesting conditions in 2004 were below average in the James Bay region of Ontario and much below average across the Hudson Bay region of Ontario.

Southern James Bay Canada Geese *(Walton, and Hughes, 2004)*

The 2004 surveys were flown on 25-29 May under good to excellent weather conditions; Akimiski Island was surveyed on 29 May under excellent conditions. Conditions in late April and early May indicated a late spring. Anecdotal information from the mainland near Moosonee suggests hatch occurring as early as 5 June. However, the northern portion of the breeding range (north of the Albany River) remained snow-covered until approximately 7-10 May. Akimiski Island was 80% snow free by 18 May. There was a reduced nesting effort by SJBP Canada geese on Akimiski Island (down about 30% from the average number of nests) with smaller than normal clutches, and the majority of Canada goose hatch occurred fairly synchronously between 13 and 21 June. Mainland geese usually nest about one week earlier than those on Akimiski Island, but weather conditions suggest that this year, the difference in timing between the two may have been greater. Thus, when the survey was conducted, geese breeding on the southern portion of the mainland were likely into week 3 of incubation whereas geese in the Akimiski portion of the range were only beginning week 2. Consistent with recent years, moult migrants did not begin showing up over Moosonee until 28 May, with the majority of the flights being observed in early June.

The 2004 spring population estimate for SJBP Canada Geese was 101 037 down from 106 512 in 2003. The number of breeding pairs on Akimiski Island was down about 23% from 2003, and was the lowest estimate since the survey began in 1990. The number of breeding pairs on the mainland also decreased by 15% from last year. As one would predict in a late year, the estimated number of non-breeders increased both on the island (150%) and on the mainland (47%) from 2003.

Given the excellent conditions and good timing of the survey we are confident with the results of the 2004 survey.

Mississippi Valley Canada Geese *(Walton and Hughes 2004)*

The 2004 survey was flown on 10-11 June, under excellent conditions. All lines were completed well before eggs began to hatch. We predicted nests along the Hudson Bay coast to be in the first week of incubation and those in interior strata to be in the second week of incubation. Spring conditions on the breeding grounds were very late in 2004. On May 15, there was still 100% snow cover north of the Ekwan River and reports of few Canada geese around Peawanuk and Winisk. Preliminary nesting phenology at Burntpoint camp indicated a breeding season as late as that of 2002 (peak hatch 29 June in 2002; estimated peak hatch June 30 in 2004 based on egg float stages of 21 active nests, June 10-11). The spring population estimate was 726 979, a 27% increase from 2003. However, moult-migrants began arriving in southern James Bay on 28 June and may have had an inflationary effect on the population estimate. The estimated number of nests (138 172), however, was down by 23% compared to

2003. Only in 1991 was the estimated breeding population lower.

Eastern Prairie Canada Geese ***(Raedeke, Telander and Lubinski, 2004)***

2004 EPP breeding phenology was the latest on record (1976-2004). May temperatures were the lowest among survey years (1972-2004). Range-wide, vegetation, snow and ice conditions all indicated a late spring. In mid-June, large lakes remained at least partially ice covered through much of the EPP range and only the most southerly portions were completely ice free. Water levels were above normal in coastal wetlands, streams, and lakes, and normal in interior habitats.

The 2004 EPP estimate of 290 700 ± 36 800 geese was higher than the 2003 estimate (229 200 ± 33 500). The number of geese observed in pairs (103 600 ± 16 200) was higher than 2003 (57 600 ± 11 200), but similar to estimates in several past years. Geese observed as singles (41 900 ± 7 300) declined from 2003 (64,800 ± 10,700) to levels similar to 1977-1985 when estimates ranged from 26 900 ± 6 300 to 48 600 ± 8 500. The estimate of pairs plus singles (145 500 ± 19 800), the basis for EPP harvest management, was similar to levels in 2003 (122 400 ± 18 100) and 2002 (152 000 ± 19 100). However, the number of productive geese (48 100 ± 7 900) declined from 2003 (70 700 ± 11 400) to the lowest level since 1984 when this index was first tallied, with the exception of 2000 (40 800 ± 7 900). The estimate of 145 200 ± 32 300 geese in groups was similar to the 2003 estimate of 106 800 ± 29 700, and to most estimates in the last 5 years.

The 2004 singles and pairs estimate is near the 2000 EPP Plan objective of 145 000. However, much of this estimate was comprised of pairs that did not exhibit nesting behavior. A production "bust" was indicated according to criteria in the 2000 EPP Plan. In general, fewer geese than normal nested and those that did initiate nesting activity much later than average and had smaller clutch sizes. We project a fall flight lower than 2003, potentially with few young geese.

North Atlantic Canada Geese ***(Bateman, pers. comm.)***

The NAP breeding population continues to be surveyed by two methods each spring: the Eastern Waterfowl Helicopter Plot Survey (Black Duck Joint Venture Survey) and the USFWS fixed-wing transect survey. An expanded helicopter plot survey was initiated in 2001 when it became evident that neither the original plot distribution nor the fixed-wing transects adequately covered the breeding range of this population. The density of indicated pairs on this expanded survey in 2004 (13 pairs per 100km^2) was 18 percent higher than the 2001-2003 average. The additional plots were not included in the most recent analysis of the Eastern Waterfowl Helicopter Plot Survey data because of the years of data. However, results from the stratum helicopter plots which cover a portion of the NAP breeding range continue to show an increasing number of pairs (2004 data analysis not yet available). Results from the 2004 Newfoundland and Labrador helicopter plots show an indicated pair density 29 percent higher than the 1990-2003 average.

Atlantic Canada Geese ***(Harvey, Rodrigue, Bordage, Cotter, pers. comm.)***

The twelfth consecutive annual survey of Canada Geese in northern Quebec was conducted in June 2004. The survey covered the three regions shown previously to include the highest densities of nesting geese (interior Ungava, coastal Ungava Bay and Hudson Bay, and the tundra-forest transition zone south of the peninsula). A fourth region in the boreal forest at the latitude of James Bay was last included in this survey in 1996, but the area was covered as part of the eastern Canada transect survey by the USFWS beginning in 2000.

Harvey and Rodrigue reported that habitat conditions indicated a relatively late spring thaw in 2004. At the time of the survey, inland areas had 10-25% snow cover and most lakes and ponds were completely or mostly frozen. On coastal areas, small to medium-sized lakes and ponds were mostly open, but larger lakes remained ice covered. Water levels were high throughout the survey area, probably reflecting the recent snowmelt.

The estimated number of breeding pairs was 174 793 (SE=15 048), a increase of 11,3% compared to last year. The proportion of indicated pairs observed as singles (34%) was the lowest since 1993 (mean = 49%; range = 34-60%), indicating a poor nesting effort this year. The total population estimate was 1 014 616, an increase of 33,5% compared to last year. However, the total population estimate contains large numbers of moult migrant geese from other populations and should be interpreted cautiously.

Last year marked the end of the intensive breeding ground study of Atlantic Population Canada Geese along Hudson Bay but 7 secondary study sites along Hudson Bay and 3 along Ungava Bay were visited during the nesting period. Cotter (pers. comm.) reported that snowmelt at these sites was very late this year, approximately 2 weeks later than the long-term average, but similar to 2002 (another late spring). Fewer nests were found at the satellite sites than were found in 2003. In the Ungava Bay

region, 59 nests were found, and the mean clutch size was estimated at 3.42, compared to 127 nests in 2003 and long-term (1996-2004) mean clutch size of 3.94. In the Hudson Bay region, mean clutch size was estimated at 3.11 (1996-2004 average is 4.0), down 28% from 2003 and down 3% compared to 2002 (another very late year). The number of nests found along Hudson Bay (181) was higher than the long-term average of 160 and 8% higher than in 2002, but 34% lower than in 2003 and lower than the 2000-2004 average (201 nests). Nests are expected to hatch during the week of 4-10 July, later than the 1996-2003 mean hatching date of 29 June.

In the boreal forest, where AP Canada Geese are counted as part of an annual helicopter survey program, the 2004 population estimate was 25 344 indicated breeding pairs ± 5 209 (SE). This estimate is slightly lower (-1.1%) than last year's estimate of 25 613 IBP, the highest count on record since 1990 (tied with the 2000 estimate) (Bordage, pers. comm). Many nests (15) with eggs were found during the survey but the clutch size (3,87 eggs ± 0,27; SE) was the second lowest since 1990, which could indicate a poor production in that part of the range. The spring thaw was late in 2004 and temperature stayed cool but dry throughout the month of May and first two weeks of June. However, a Canada Goose brood (3 goslings 1B) was observed May 30th north of Chibougamau (50°08'N). The region covered by the eastern boreal forest survey is at the southern limit of the nesting range of AP Canada Geese.

Black Duck Harvest Strategy

A Canada / United States Black Duck Harvest Strategy Working Group has been established to make recommendations on how the two countries should approach future regulations for hunting of American Black Ducks. The group is co-chaired by the Chief of the Migratory Birds Conservation Division, Canadian Wildlife Service, and the Chief of the Surveys and Assessment Branch, Office of Migratory Bird Management, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. An adaptive harvest management methodology is being explored. Adaptive harvest management implies an approach in which uncertainty about systems dynamics are managed under a strategy that includes learning as an explicit objective, and uses feedback from any given management cycle to improve models and decision processes for future cycles. In regulating waterfowl harvest, managers face four fundamental sources of uncertainty:

1) environmental variation - represents the temporal and geographical variation in weather and other key features of waterfowl habitats;
2) partial controllability - the ability of managers to control harvest only under certain limits. The harvest from a particular set of harvest regulations cannot be predicted with certainty because of variation in weather, timing of migration, hunter effort, and other factors;
3) partial observability - the ability to estimate key population parameters (population size, survival, productivity, etc.) only within the precision afforded by existing monitoring programs;
4) structural uncertainty - an incomplete understanding of biological processes governing population dynamics. A familiar example is the long-lasting debate about whether hunting mortality of waterfowl is additive to other sources of mortality or whether populations compensate for hunting mortality with reduced natural mortality.

Adaptive harvest management is expected to reduce uncertainty and clarify the relationship between hunting regulations, harvest, and Black Duck populations. Thus, the working group study involves the construction of several population models that address different hypotheses about factors affecting the population dynamics of Black Ducks, as well as the development of a mathematical optimization process to help guide regulatory decisions. The development of models and optimization process are completed. A final report on the feasibility of using Adaptive Harvest Management for the American Black Duck will be released shortly and additional information will be published in the November 2004 Report on the Population Status of Migratory Game Birds. In the meantime, representatives from the Canadian Wildlife Service and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will be looking at the best approaches for implementation of an international Black Duck harvest strategy based on AHM.

A scientific team based in the Georgia Cooperative Wildlife Research Unit is developing the population models. Model sets were first separated into four production and four survival submodels for a total of 16 different models. The four factors identified as having a potential impact on Black Duck Populations were: a) under the production submodels, 1. competition with Mallards, and 2. breeding habitat changes; b) under the survival submodels, 3. compensatory or additive hunting mortality, and 4. wintering habitat changes. Population models that included breeding and wintering habitat changes were relatively ineffective compared to the other models. Therefore, the current focus is only on the four models using

Mallard (competition or not) and Harvest (compensatory or additive mortality) factors.

Among the key components the working group believes which are important are: the division of the Black Duck population into breeding, wintering, and harvest area-based management units; the combination of several data sources such as the CWS helicopter survey plots with linear fixed-wing aircraft survey transects; devising the best ways to eventually integrate habitat information; and the integration of data relative to the eastern Mallard population. The solution of these technical issues will require extension of the existing methodologies for adaptive resource management. Initial population models allow for three breeding populations and six harvest areas, density dependence or no density dependence, a Mallard effect on Black Ducks and no Mallard effect on Black Ducks. These initial models are based on a population index derived from the CWS helicopter survey plot data.

The Black Duck Harvest Strategy Working Group intends to keep the appropriate regulatory consultation bodies in Canada and United Sates informed of progress as the adaptive management study continues. These bodies will also be informed if alternative strategic frameworks for Black Duck hunting regulations come under consideration.

Progress on the adaptive management study can be found on the following Web site:

http://coopunit.forestry.uga.edu/blackduck/

Management of Overabundant Snow Geese

Issue

The rapid growth of most Snow Goose populations is of great concern. Assessments of the environmental effects of the rapidly growing populations of Mid-continent Lesser Snow Geese and of Greater Snow Geese were completed by working groups of Canadian and American scientists. Their analyses are contained in the comprehensive reports entitled "*Arctic Ecosystems in Peril – Report of the Arctic Goose Habitat Working Group*" (Batt 1998) and "*The Greater Snow Goose – Report of the Arctic Goose Habitat Working Group*" (Batt 1998). The working groups concluded that the primary causes of the increase of Snow Goose populations were human induced. Improved nutrition from agricultural practices and safety in refuges have resulted in increased survival and reproductive rates of Snow Geese. These populations have become so large that they are affecting the vegetation communities on which they and other species rely at staging areas and on the breeding grounds. Grazing and grubbing by geese not only permanently removes vegetation, but also changes soil salinity, nitrogen dynamics and moisture levels. The result is the alteration or elimination of the plant communities, which in all likelihood will not be restored. Although the Arctic is vast, the areas that support breeding geese and other companion species are limited in extent and some areas are likely to become inhospitable for decades. Increasing crop damage is also an important consequence of the growing populations. A group of CWS scientists and managers and academics was put together in fall 2003 to assess the effects that special conservation measures have had on the Greater Snow Goose population and associated vital rates. This working group has completed the analyses of the data and are currently writing a first draft of a report. This report will be useful for assessing the usefulness of special conservation measures on limiting growth of Arctic-nesting geese, and will provide the scientific basis for future management of this population. The working group should have completed the final report by December 2004.

Regulation

Several management actions are being undertaken concurrently to curtail the rapid population growth and reduce population size to a level consistent with the carrying capacity of the habitat. One action involves increasing the mortality rate of Snow Geese by two to three times the rate achieved prior to the introduction of habitat conservation measures. Beginning in 1999 an amendment to the Migratory Birds Regulations created special conservation measures during which hunters were encouraged to take overabundant species for conservation reasons and, in some cases and subject to specific controls, to use special methods and equipment such as electronic calls and bait. The 1999 and 2000 regulations applied in selected areas of Québec and Manitoba. Beginning in spring 2001, special conservation measures were also implemented in Saskatchewan and Nunavut. The dates and locations where special conservation measures were implemented were determined through consultation with the provincial governments, other organizations and local communities.

Evaluation

Evaluation plans are being implemented to track progress toward the goals of reduced population growth and, ultimately, recovery by plant communities. For example, across the Arctic in 2003, over 5,700 Lesser Snow Geese and 4,000 Ross' Geese were marked with neck bands, bringing the total number of birds neck-banded to 35,975 Lesser Snow Geese and 19,772 Ross Geese since 1997 (D. Caswell, pers. comm.). The main objectives

are to obtain colony specific estimates of harvest and survival rates, document timing and pattern of fall and spring migration, and obtain population and production estimates. Base line estimates of the size of the eastern arctic colonies in 1997 and the central arctic colonies in 1998 were established using a photographic inventory. The eastern arctic colonies along West Hudson Bay and Southampton Island were re-photographed in June 2003 and the photographs are currently being interpreted (D. Caswell, pers. comm.). Investigations of the condition of staging and breeding habitats continued in 2004 along the west coast of Hudson Bay, where the effects of geese on habitats are well documented. Assessments were also carried out at other major Snow Goose colonies.

The special conservation measures appear to be successful in increasing harvest rates for Snow Geese. For Greater Snow Geese, the estimated harvest rates of adults (based on regular-season harvest in Canada and the U.S., and including the special conservation seasons which are in effect in Canada only) ranged from 12 to 14% in each of the five seasons held to date. These are much higher than the rates achieved during 1985-1997 (average harvest rate of 6%), a period of rapid population growth, and higher than harvest rates during 1975-1984 (11%) when the population was relatively small and stable (G. Gauthier, unpubl.).

A monitoring program of the ecological integrity of the *Scirpus* marshes staging habitat along the St. Lawrence River will be implemented over the next four years. This project aims at monitoring changes in extent (area), plant community composition, and primary production of *Scirpus* marshes since the 1970's. Such information is crucial to determine the target size (carrying capacity) of the Greater Snow Goose population to prevent long-term marsh degradation and develop a simplified index of ecological integrity of these marshes. This information could be used on an annual basis as part of an adaptive resource management model for Greater Snow Geese.

For Lesser Snow Geese, the harvest rate in Canada was much less than that achieved for Greater Snow Geese. Sport hunters took about 5,000 to 7,000 additional birds in each year as part of the conservation measures. However, the continental program as a whole shows signs of success; preliminary analyses indicate that the survival rates of mid-continent Lesser Snow Geese were reduced during the years of special conservation measures. Since 1999, adult survival rates at most mid-continent colonies were between 60 and 70 per cent. In contrast, the survival rate was over 80 per cent at a western colony not affected by the special measures.

Management plan

Québec region is working on a new integrated and sustainable management plan for Greater Snow Geese for the period 2005-2010. This new plan will be based on biological (migratory breeding and wintering habitats) and social (socioeconomic benefits and agricultural damage cost) carrying capacities. Managers intend to establish a Greater Snow Geese target population range, to avoid population's vulnerability to a natural or man-made disaster, and to prevent overabundance causing damage to the ecological integrity of natural habitat. This new adaptive population management plan will be presented for discussion to stakeholders in January 2005. Target date for implementation would be March 2005.

Proposal for 2005-2006

Proposals regarding special conservation measures in 2005-2006 will be presented for discussion in the November 2004 Report on the Population Status of Migratory Game Birds and for a period of formal public consultation in the Canada Gazette.

Hunting Regulations for the 2004-2005 Season

The regulations in effect for 2004/2005 are shown in Appendix A. The amendments were approved by the Governor in Council on June 3, 2004.

Newfoundland and Labrador

Murres

There is an amendment to the murre hunting zones in Newfoundland. The change partitions Zone 3, such that the eastern Avalon peninsula, from Cape Spear to Cape Race, will have the same open season as Zone 4. The change was made in response to a request from a hunter group, who clarified that the type and timing of murre hunting in the eastern Avalon region is similar to that in Zone 4 where the majority of hunting takes place during migration rather than during winter. The approximate zone boundaries are shown in Figure 1.

The dates corresponding to the revised zones are as follows:

Zone 1: 1 September to 16 December

Zone 2: 8 October to 22 January
Zone 3: 25 November to 10 March
Zone 4: 1 November to 8 January, and
2 February to 10 March

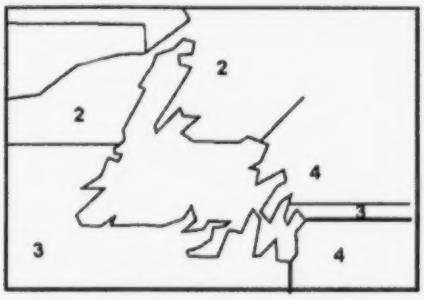

Figure 1: Proposed zone change.

Prince Edward Island

There are no changes except minor date adjustments to avoid Sunday openings or closings. Waterfowler Heritage Day will be held on 18 September.

Nova Scotia

There are no changes except minor date adjustments to avoid Sunday openings or closings. Waterfowler Heritage Day will be held 25 September.

New Brunswick

There are no changes except minor date adjustments to avoid Sunday openings or closings. Waterfowler Heritage Day will be held 18 September.

Quebec

Canada goose

An early Canada Goose season is added in District E. Hunting is authorized on farmlands only, starting September 6, and running until the opening of the general waterfowl hunting season, which occurs on the third Saturday of September.

There is no longer a restriction that excludes hunting north of route 132 and south of route 138 during the early Canada Goose season in District G. In addition, hunting will be allowed on farmlands only, starting September 6 and running until the opening of the general waterfowl hunting season, which occurs on the fourth Saturday of September.

No-hunting zones

Several no-hunting zones were removed this year. When these no-hunting zones were created, they were designed to provide rest areas for waterfowl, to protect certain species or to consolidate the protection of some areas. However, the low numbers of waterfowl in some areas and the adoption of municipal bylaws that prohibit discharge or firearms have made these designations unnecessary for the conservation of migratory birds. The removed no-hunting zones are: Lac Boivin, Parc Safari de Hemmingford, Sainte-Barbe, Lac Roxton and St-Denis-de-Kamouraska.

Ontario

There are no changes to the regulations for the 2004-2005 season.

Manitoba

An error in the existing federal regulations was corrected, where the provincial Game Hunting Area 38 appeared incorrectly as Game Hunting Area 37, which does not exist. Thus, the description of federal Game Bird Hunting Zone 4 was modified to include "that portion of the Province of Manitoba included in Provincial Game Hunting Areas Nos. 22, 23, 24, 25A, 25B, 27, 28, 29, 29A, 30, 31, 31A, 32, 33, 34, 34A, 34B, 34C, 35, 35A, 36 and 38 as described in Manitoba Regulation 220/86 as filed on September 25, 1986;"

Saskatchewan

Duck Season Opening Date

September 1 was established as the opening date for the duck hunting season, throughout the Province. Currently, the opening date in the North Game Bird District is September 1, but is about one week later in the South Game Bird District.

Non-resident Opening Date for Geese

A fixed date of 10 September has been set for the opening of the dark goose hunting season for non-residents in the Southern Game Bird District. Specific exceptions, such as the Last Mountain Lake National Wildlife Area, are retained.

All Day Hunting for Geese

All-day hunting for white geese is being allowed throughout the entire season in Saskatchewan east of 106° W longitude. Previously, all-day hunting was restricted to certain portions of the region. The increased harvest rates during autumn for snow geese throughout the prairies and in Quebec will complement the special conservation measures that have been the subject of annual regulatory changes since 1999.

Also, 15 October was set as the fixed date for the opening of all day hunting for geese in those areas, and for those species, which currently have ½ day hunting early in the season.

Alberta

There are no changes to the regulations for the 2004-2005 season.

British Columbia

Canvasback, Northern Pintails, Harlequin Ducks and Goldeneyes

The current restrictive regulations on Canvasback, Northern Pintails, Harlequin Ducks and goldeneyes are maintained.

Pacific Population of Western Canada Goose

Over the last few years, a number of strategies including the introduction of multiple hunting seasons ("split seasons") have been implemented in the southern part of the province to increase the harvest of resident Canada Geese. Once again, the current opening and closing dates for each split season are maintained in Management Districts 3 and 8. There was some adjustment of the opening and closing dates for each split season in Management Districts 1 and 2.

Band-tailed Pigeon

The current restrictive regulations on Band-tailed Pigeon are maintained.

Nunavut

The bag limits for Canada geese were modified for many of the islands in James Bay and Hudson Bay, to match those of the adjacent mainland in Ontario and Quebec. There previously had been restrictions on these islands to protect Canada geese when the local populations were low, but these restrictions have been lifted.

Northwest Territories

There are no regulatory changes for the 2004-2005 season.

Yukon Territory

There are no regulatory changes for the 2004-2005 season.

Updates to the Migratory Birds Regulations

Comprehensive Review of the Migratory Birds Regulations

Although the *Migratory Birds Regulations* are reviewed annually with regard to hunting seasons and bag limits, there are also changes needed to the main text of the regulations, to reflect recent amendments to the *Migratory Birds Convention* and other issues that have arisen. In addition, because of their relatively long history, the regulations suffer from having been amended on numerous occasions. The text needs an overhaul to consolidate and clarify its content. It is also proposed to amalgamate the Migratory Bird Sanctuary Regulations (that also exist under the authority of the Migratory Bird Convention Act) with the Migratory Bird Regulations, in order to use common definitions and approaches, particularly in areas such as issuing permits.

The purpose of the review process is to clarify and improve the following policy questions, which will then guide proposed changes to the regulations.

1. What is the scope of the regulations, including the species covered, and to what area does the regulation apply?
2. How is the situation of aboriginal people reflected in accordance with co-management agreements and the revised Migratory Birds Convention?
3. How is the incidental take of migratory birds and nests addressed?
4. What is the approach towards alien species of migratory birds?
5. What are updated approaches for management of hunting (e.g. structured management with thresholds and triggers, no wastage)?
6. How is the management of authorized activities (see attached table), under permit, accomplished?

These are the main topics now under consideration through the comprehensive review of

the Migratory Birds Regulations. Additional smaller issues or changes are also being examined.

On the issue of permitting (item 6 above), CWS is preparing an amendment to Section 4 in response to a request from the Joint Standing Committee on the Scrutiny of Regulations. The committee identified the need to indicate in general terms the types of conditions which may be imposed in a permit because currently the text of the regulations only indicates that the "Minister may issue with such conditions as he considers reasonable, any permit referred to in Schedule II". This change is not expected to have a major impact on current permits being issued but should help in providing a clearer framework for permittees in the long term. The Canadian Wildlife Service is working on this new text describing permit. For more information, please contact Hélène Lévesque, Migratory Birds Conservation Division, Canadian Wildlife Service, Ottawa, Ontario, K1A 0H3.

Permit topics	Changes under consideration	Reasons
All permits	• Specify and clarify permit conditions	• Increase fairness and coherence
Salvage	• Remove permit requirements for people who temporarily possess birds for compassionate, sanitary, and similar reasons as long as the birds are delivered to designated authorities	• Permit simplification, more practical
New Permits	• New permits for educational, rehabilitation, and zoo purposes	• Conformity to provisions of revised *Migratory Birds Convention*
Feeding of migratory birds that can be hunted	• Define conditions when migratory game birds may be fed, consistent with the conservation principles of the *Migratory Birds Convention*	• Tighten prohibition against baiting for hunting, while avoiding excessive permit issuance in areas where hunting is not permitted

Motion-winged, spinning-winged and motorized decoys

Motion-winged decoys are increasingly popular for waterfowl hunting, and there are many reports of their ability to significantly increase hunter success. Because of the increasing use of such decoys, and few actual estimates of their effect on harvest rates, the Canadian Wildlife Service conducted a study in the falls of 2001 and 2002 to evaluate hunter success. The study showed that during marsh hunts, mallards were 1.9 times more likely to fly within gun range (<40m), the mean number of mallards harvested/hour/hunter was 5 times greater, and the crippling rate was 1.6 times lower when using a spinning-winged decoy as compared to conventional decoys only. The effects were even greater in field hunting situations: mallards were 6.3 times as likely to fly within gun range, mean number harvested/hour/hunter was 33 times greater, and the crippling rate was 2.2 times lower when using the motion winged decoy than without it (Caswell, pers. comm.). The final results of this study have been submitted for publication. Similar research is being conducted in several US states and early results corroborate this effect on hunting success.

More information is required on the prevalence of the use of these decoys in order to understand if this increased success rate is reflected in the total seasonal harvest. The proportion of hunters in Canada that use motion-winged decoys is unknown. It is also unclear if hunters having more success by using special decoys will simply spend less time in the field hunting, or if the harvest rate will actually increase. The National Harvest Survey monitors total harvest and hunting activity but it cannot tease apart the success of hunters using motion-winged decoys from that of hunters using more traditional techniques. If necessary a special survey will be designed to gain further insight on the effect of motion-winged decoys on total harvest.

A Missouri survey of hunters' opinions about motorized decoys (David Graber, pers. comm.) found that 58.2% approved of the use of motion-winged decoys only if there were no affect on the season length or bag limit. Of the remaining hunters, 10% were not in favour, based on feelings about fair chase, and another 10.2% were not in favour because they it felt it detracted from traditional duck hunting methods. About 9.5% of hunters surveyed were in favour of the use of motorized decoys, even if the seasons were affected. The final 12.1% had no opinion.

At this time CWS has not reached any conclusion, and will continue to evaluate the need to

regulate the use of motion-winged or other motorized decoys.

Hunting from a vehicle for hunters with physical disabilities

The Field and Stream Association for Manitobans with Disabilities has contacted the Canadian Wildlife Service requesting that an amendment to the Migratory Birds Regulations be considered to allow the use of a vehicle while hunting migratory birds. The association reported that the provincial hunting regulations in Manitoba had been modified to allow a permanently disabled hunter to discharge a firearm from a stationary vehicle while hunting for big game.

Enquiring about other provincial approaches, CWS found that the question of hunting by persons with disabilities is a complex situation that is being handled differently in different provincial jurisdictions. In some instances the discharge of a firearm from a vehicle is considered to be strictly a safety issue and it has therefore been prohibited for all persons. In many cases, however, provincial authorities provide an exception either through administrative procedures and/or through regulations. In those instances, the province has usually developed an approach to identify who is eligible.

CWS still needs to gather more information but our preliminary enquiry suggests that a change could be made to the Migratory Birds Regulations that would refer to exemptions provided by the provincial jurisdictions where they exist. One area of concern for CWS is that measures for the retrieval of game birds be accounted for.

If you have any comments, please contact Hélène Lévesque, Migratory Birds Conservation Division, Canadian Wildlife Service, Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0H3.

Other Amendments to the Migratory Birds Regulations

Management of the Murre Hunt in Newfoundland and Labrador

The hunting of murres is a long established tradition in Newfoundland and Labrador, where the birds have been taken for subsistence purposes for hundreds of years. However, because murres are considered non-game species under the *Migratory Birds Convention*, the murre hunt became inconsistent with the *Convention* when Newfoundland joined Confederation in 1949. Beginning in 1993, murre hunt seasons and bag limits were established for conservation purposes through a special Administrative Order under the *Migratory Bird Convention Act*.

In order to address the gap in the *Convention* with respect to the murre hunt, as well as to resolve other issues, Canada negotiated amendments to the *Migratory Birds Convention*, known as the Parksville Protocol, in 1995. Under the terms of the Protocol, the harvest of murres by residents of Newfoundland and Labrador is authorized and is controlled at sustainable levels in much the same manner as waterfowl harvesting is regulated. However, there are some differences. Under the new regulations, which came into effect for the 2000-2001 hunting season, murres may be hunted from a boat under power. At the current time, there is no plan to require the use of non-toxic shot for murre hunting.

CWS also reviewed the need to require all murre hunters to purchase a Migratory Game Bird Hunting Permit. Without the Permit there was no direct way of knowing how many people hunt murres or how many birds are taken, elements that are important to any game management program to provide assurance against over-harvest and to ensure the continuation of the hunt into the future. Recognizing the importance of harvest data gathered from permit holders, CWS introduced a requirement for murre hunters to purchase a Migratory Game Bird Hunting Permit beginning in the 2001 hunting season.

If you have any comments, please contact the Canadian Wildlife Service, 6 Bruce St., Mount Pearl, NF, A1N 4T3 (709-772-5585 or 709-535-0601; E-mail: cws.nfandlab@ec.gc.ca).

Addition of a new non toxic shot

It is proposed that the *Migratory Birds Regulations* and the *Wildlife Area Regulations* be amended in the coming year to authorize the possession and use of a new non-toxic shot, called "tungsten-bronze-iron shot", recently approved by CWS for hunting migratory game birds.

Amendments to Other Regulations

Wildlife Area Regulations

It is proposed that the *Wildlife Area Regulations* be amended in the coming year to extend the boundaries of the following National Wildlife Area (NWAs): Cape Jourimain, Portobello and Shepody NWAs in New Brunswick; Sand Pond NWA in Nova Scotia; St. Clair and Long Point NWAs in Ontario and Alaksen and Qualicum NWAs in British Columbia.

Migratory Bird Sanctuary Regulations

It is proposed that the *Migratory Bird Sanctuary Regulations* be amended in the coming year to enlarge the Île-aux-Hérons Migratory Bird Sanctuary in Quebec.

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Appendix A.

2003 Migratory Birds Hunting Regulations Summaries by Province and Territory

are also available on the CWS national Web site at:

http://www.cws-scf.ec.gc.ca/pub/summ/index.html

Newfoundland and Labrador

Migratory Birds Hunting Regulations, 2004

Watch for this icon on blue signs marking National Wildlife Areas and Migratory Bird Sanctuaries

Summary

The information presented here is a summary of the law. For complete information regarding fines, general prohibitions, permitted methods of hunting and equipment, the requirement to have adequate means to retrieve birds immediately, restrictions on the use of boat, description of hunting zones, and other regulations, you may contact:

Enforcement Coordinator
Canadian Wildlife Service
P.O. Box 1201
Lewisporte, Newfoundland
A0G 3A0
Tel.: (709) 535-0601
Fax: (709) 535-2743

Check your permit and provincial hunting regulations for additional restrictions. The season length and bag limit restrictions implemented in 1998 for eiders, Long-tailed Ducks (Oldsquaw or hounds), scoters, and merganasers remain in effect.

Remember: it is illegal to hunt Migratory Birds, including Sea Ducks, from a power boat unless the motor is not in operation and all forward progress of the boat has ceased. This regulation does not apply to persons hunting Murres (Turrs).

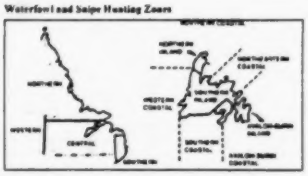
Attention murre (turr) hunters: In the 2004-05 season, all hunters must purchase and be in possession of a Migratory Game Bird Hunting Permit and Habitat Conservation Stamp while hunting murres (turrs). Season length and bag limits for hunting murres remain in effect. The non-toxic shot regulations described below does not apply to murre hunters.

Non-toxic shot must be used in all areas of Canada for migratory game bird hunting except for woodcock, Band-tailed Pigeons, murres (turrs), and Mourning Doves Within National Wildlife Areas, the possession of lead shot is prohibited for all hunting, including the hunting of migratory birds and upland game birds. Hunters should consult provincial or territorial regulations for additional restrictions.

For those birds still hunted with lead shot, remove the lead shot before cooking whenever possible in order to reduce your exposure to contaminants. As well, remove the skin and fat from fish-eating birds before cooking them.

Canadians may be exposed to the West Nile virus when bird-watching, hunting, or handling migratory birds and other wild game. Environment Canada recommends the Web site, maintained by Health Canada, for information about minimizing the risk of exposure (www.hc-sc.gc.ca/english/westnile/animals.html).

Waterfowl and Snipe Hunting Zones



"Coastal" refers to that portion of the coast lying within 100 metres of the mean ordinary high-water mark, including the coastal portions of offshore islands and the adjacent marine coastal waters.

CRIME STOPPERS
Hunting violations may be reported to the Canadian Wildlife Service office, your local RCMP detachment, or Crime Stoppers (1-800-363-8477).

OPEN SEASONS ON THE ISLAND OF NEWFOUNDLAND (No open season for Harlequin Ducks)

Area	Ducks, including mergansers (other than Oldsquaw*, Harlequin Ducks, eiders, and scoters), geese, and snipe	Oldsquaw*, eiders, and scoters
All Coastal Zones	Third Saturday of September to second Saturday of December	Fourth Saturday of November to the last day of February
All Inland Zones	Third Saturday of September to second Saturday of December	No open season

* Oldsquaw ducks are now referred to as Long-tailed Ducks.

BAG AND POSSESSION LIMITS ON THE ISLAND OF NEWFOUNDLAND

Limits	Ducks (other than mergansers, Oldsquaw*, Harlequin Ducks, eiders, and scoters)	Mergansers	Oldsquaw*, eiders, and scoters	Geese	Snipe
Daily bags	6(a)	6	6(c)	5	10
Possession	12(b)	12	12(d)	10	20

(a) Not more than four may be American Black Ducks.
(b) Not more than eight may be American Black Ducks.
(c) After the first Monday in February not more than three may be eiders.
(d) After the first Monday in February not more than six may be eiders.
* Oldsquaw ducks are now referred to as Long-tailed Ducks.

OPEN SEASONS IN LABRADOR (No open season for Harlequin Ducks)

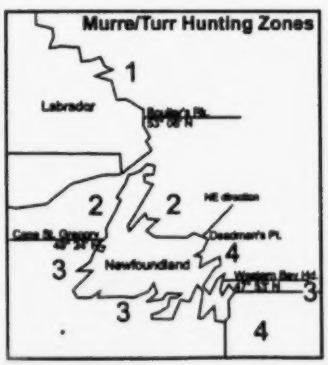
Area	Ducks (other than Harlequin Ducks and eiders), geese, and snipe	Eiders
Northern Labrador Zone	First Saturday in September to second Saturday in December	Last Saturday in September to second Saturday in January
Western Labrador Zone	First Saturday in September to second Saturday in December	No open season
Southern Labrador Zone	Second Saturday in September to third Saturday in December	Fourth Saturday in November to last day of February
Coastal Labrador Zone	First Saturday in September to second Saturday in December	Last Saturday in October to last Saturday in November and first Saturday in January to last day of February

BAG AND POSSESSION LIMITS IN LABRADOR

Limits	Ducks (other than mergansers, Harlequin Ducks, eiders, and scoters)	Mergansers, scoters, and eiders	Geese	Snipe
Daily bags	6	6(a)	5	10
Possession	12	12(b)	10	20

(a) After the first Monday in February not more than three may be eiders.
(b) After the first Monday in February not more than six may be eiders.

NOTE:
Harlequin Ducks are also known locally as Lords and Ladies, White-eyed Divers, or Sparshawk.



OPEN SEASONS IN NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR (Murres/Turrs)

Area	Murres
Zone No. 1	September 1 to December 16
Zone No. 2	October 9 to January 22
Zone No. 3	November 25 to March 10
Zone No. 4	November 1 to January 8 February 2 to March 10

BAG AND POSSESSION LIMITS IN NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR (Murres/Turrs)

Limits	Murres
Daily Bags	30
Possession	60

Canada

REPORT YOUR MIGRATORY BIRD BANDS:
CALL 1-800-327-BAND (2263)

Migratory Birds Hunting Regulations, 2004

Watch for this loon on blue signs marking National Wildlife Areas and Migratory Bird Sanctuaries.

Summary

The information presented here is a summary of the law. For complete information regarding fines, general prohibitions, permitted methods of hunting and equipment, the requirement to have adequate means to retrieve birds immediately, restrictions on the use of bait, description of hunting zones, and other regulations, you may contact:

Enforcement Coordinator
Canadian Wildlife Service
17 Waterfowl Lane
P.O. Box 6227
Sackville, New Brunswick
E4L 1G6
Tel.: (506) 364-5032
Fax: (506) 364-5062

Check your permit and provincial regulations for additional restrictions.

Waterfowler Heritage Days provide young hunters under the age of majority with the opportunity to practise hunting and outdoor skills, learn about wildlife conservation, and reinforce safety training in a structured, supervised environment before the season opens for other hunters. Licensed adult hunters who serve as mentors have an opportunity to pass on their considerable skills and knowledge by offering guidance and advice to younger hunters. The following rules are in effect:

- To participate, young hunters under the age of majority do not require the federal Migratory Game Bird Hunting Permit;
- Young participants must comply with all existing safety and licensing requirements found in the Firearms Act and provincial hunting regulations;
- Participants must be accompanied by a licensed mentor over the age of majority; and
- Mentors may not hunt or carry a firearm, and may accompany no more than two young hunters.

Non-toxic shot must be used in **all** areas of Canada for migratory game bird hunting except for woodcock, Band-tailed Pigeons, and Mourning Doves. Within National Wildlife Areas, the possession of lead shot is prohibited for all hunting, including the hunting of migratory birds and upland game birds. Hunters should consult provincial or territorial regulations for additional restrictions. For more information about the non-toxic shot regulation, visit our website at http://www.cws-scf.ec.gc.ca.

For those birds still hunted with lead shot, remove the lead shot before cooking whenever possible in order to reduce your exposure to contaminants. As well, remove the skin and fat from fish-eating birds before cooking them.

Canadians may be exposed to the West Nile virus when bird-watching, hunting, or handling migratory birds and other wild game. Environment Canada recommends the Web site, maintained by Health Canada, for information about minimizing the risk of exposure (www.hc-sc.gc.ca/english/westnile/animals.html).

CRIME STOPPERS

The Canadian Wildlife Service has joined forces with Prince Edward Island Crime Stoppers to address offences concerning migratory birds. Anyone wishing to report illegal hunting activities, illegal selling of birds, or other offences related to migratory birds is asked to call Crime Stoppers at 1-800-566-TIPS (8477). Your call is anonymous, and you may be eligible for a cash reward.

OPEN SEASONS IN PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND (**No open season for Harlequin Ducks**)

Area	Ducks (other than Harlequin Ducks) and geese WATERFOWLER HERITAGE DAY	Ducks (other than Harlequin Ducks), snipe, and geese	Woodcock
Throughout the Province of Prince Edward Island	September 18	First Monday of October to second Saturday of December	Last Monday in September to second Saturday in December

BAG AND POSSESSION LIMITS IN PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND

Limits	Ducks (other than Harlequin Ducks)	Geese	Woodcock	Snipe
Daily bags	6(a)	5	8	10
Possession	12(b)	10	16	20

(a) Not more than four may be Mallards, Mallard-American Black Duck hybrids, or American Black Ducks.
(b) Not more than eight may be Mallards, Mallard-American Black Duck hybrids, or American Black Ducks.

Canada

REPORT YOUR MIGRATORY BIRD BANDS:
CALL 1-800-327-BAND (2263)

Nova Scotia

Migratory Birds Hunting Regulations, 2004

Watch for this loon on blue signs marking National Wildlife Areas and Migratory Bird Sanctuaries.

Summary

The information presented here is a summary of the law. For complete information regarding fines, general prohibitions, permitted methods of hunting and equipment, the requirement to have adequate means to retrieve birds immediately, restrictions on the use of bait, description of hunting zones, and other regulations, you may contact:

Enforcement Coordinator
Canadian Wildlife Service
5th Floor, Queen's Square
45 Alderney Drive
Dartmouth, Nova Scotia
B2Y 2N6
Tel.: (902) 426-1188
Fax: (902) 426-4457

Use of bait prior to and during the migratory bird hunting season is prohibited. Check your permit and provincial hunting regulations for additional restrictions.

Waterfowler Heritage Days provide young hunters under the age of majority with the opportunity to practise hunting and outdoor skills, learn about wildlife conservation, and reinforce safety training in a structured, supervised environment before the season opens for other hunters. Licensed adult hunters who serve as mentors have an opportunity to pass on their considerable skills and knowledge by offering guidance and advice to younger hunters. The following rules are in effect:

- To participate, young hunters under the age of majority do not require the federal Migratory Game Bird Hunting Permit;
- Young participants must comply with all existing safety and licensing requirements found in the Firearms Act and provincial hunting regulations;
- Participants must be accompanied by a licensed mentor over the age of majority; and
- Mentors may not hunt or carry a firearm, and may accompany no more than two young hunters.

Non-toxic shot must be used in all areas of Canada for migratory game bird hunting except for woodcock, Band-tailed Pigeons, and Mourning Doves. Within National Wildlife Areas, the possession of lead shot is prohibited for all hunting, including migratory birds and upland game birds. Hunters should consult provincial or territorial regulations for additional restrictions.

For those birds still hunted with lead shot, remove the lead shot before cooking whenever possible in order to reduce your exposure to contaminants. As well, remove the skin and fat from fish-eating birds before cooking them.

Canadians may be exposed to the West Nile virus when bird-watching, hunting, or handling migratory birds and other wild game. Environment Canada recommends the Web site, maintained by Health Canada, for information about minimizing the risk of exposure (www.hc-sc.gc.ca/english/westnile/animals.html).

CRIME STOPPERS
Hunting violations may be reported to the CWS office, your local RCMP detachment, Nova Scotia Department of Natural Resources 1-800-565-2224, or Crime Stoppers 1-800-422-8477.

OPEN SEASONS IN NOVA SCOTIA (No open season for Harlequin Ducks)

Area	Ducks (other than Harlequin Ducks) and geese WATERFOWLER HERITAGE DAY	Ducks (other than Harlequin Ducks)	Additional seasons for Common and Red-breasted mergansers	Additional seasons for Oldsquaw**, eiders, and scoters in coastal waters only	Additional seasons for scaup, goldeneyes, and Buffleheads	Geese	Woodcock and snipe
Zone No. 1*	Sept. 25	Oct. 1 to Dec. 31	No additional season	No additional season	No additional season	Oct. 1 to Dec. 31	Oct. 1 to Nov. 30
Zone No. 2*	Sept. 25	Oct. 8 to Dec. 31	Oct. 1 to Oct. 7 and Jan. 1 to Jan. 7 (in coastal waters only)	Oct. 1 to Oct. 7 and Jan. 1 to Jan. 7	Jan. 1 to Jan. 7	Oct. 8 to Jan. 15	Oct. 1 to Nov. 30
Zone No. 3*	Sept. 25	Oct. 8 to Dec. 31	Jan. 1 to Jan. 7	No additional season	Jan. 1 to Jan. 7	Oct. 8 to Jan. 15	Oct. 1 to Nov. 30

* "Zone No. 1" means the counties of Antigonish, Pictou, Colchester, Cumberland, Hants, Kings, and Annapolis;
"Zone No. 2" means the counties of Digby, Yarmouth, Shelburne, Queens, Lunenburg, Halifax, Guysborough, Cape Breton, Victoria, Inverness, and Richmond, except the area described under Zone 3; and
"Zone No. 3" means Bras d'Or Lake and all waters draining into Bras d'Or Lake including waters on the lake side of the highway bridge on Great Bras d'Or at Seal Islands (Highway No. 105), at St. Peters on St. Peters Inlet (Highway No. 4), and at Bras d'Or on St. Andrews Channel (Highway No. 105).
** Oldsquaw ducks are now referred to as Long-tailed Ducks.

BAG AND POSSESSION LIMITS IN NOVA SCOTIA

Limits	Ducks (other than Common and Red-breasted mergansers, Oldsquaw, Harlequin Ducks, eiders, and scoters)	Common and Red-breasted mergansers, Oldsquaw, eiders, and scoters	Geese	Woodcock	Snipe
Daily bags	6(a)	5	5	8	10
Possession	12(b)	10	10	16	20

(a) Not more than four may be American Black Ducks.
(b) Not more than eight may be American Black Ducks.

Canada

REPORT YOUR MIGRATORY BIRD BANDS: CALL 1-800-327-BAND (2263)

Migratory Birds Hunting Regulations, 2004

Summary

Watch for this icon on blue signs marking National Wildlife Areas and Migratory Bird Sanctuaries.

The information presented here is a summary of the law. For complete information regarding fines, general prohibitions, permitted methods of hunting and equipment, the requirement to have adequate means to retrieve birds immediately, restrictions on the use of bait, description of hunting zones, and other regulations, you may contact:

Enforcement Coordinator
Canadian Wildlife Service
17 Waterfowl Lane
P.O. Box 6227
Sackville, New Brunswick
E4L 1G6
Tel.: (506) 364-5033
Fax: (506) 364-5062

Check your permit and provincial hunting regulations for additional restrictions, such as the 1:00 P.M. closure for Tabusintac and Tracadie lagoons, the requirement to use a dog while hunting woodcock during September, etc.

Hunting Zones

Zone No. 1
Saint John County south of No. 1 Highway and west of Saint John Harbour, that part of Charlotte County lying south of No. 1 Highway, and the Grand Manan Islands and Campobello Island, except the following area, which is closed to hunting: the area in the Bay of Fundy known as The Wolves, including the surrounding waters.

Zone No. 2
The remainder of the Province of New Brunswick, except the following, which are closed to hunting: the estuary of the Tabusintac River, Bathurst Basin and most of Bathurst Harbour (two islands remain open and signs have been posted to indicate their locations), and the Dalhousie shoreline from the eastern tip of Dalhousie Island to the mouth of the Miller Brook and extending one kilometre offshore.

Waterfowler Heritage Days provide young hunters under the age of majority with the opportunity to practise hunting and outdoor skills, learn about wildlife conservation, and reinforce safety training in a structured, supervised environment before the season opens for other hunters. Licensed adult hunters who serve as mentors have an opportunity to pass on their considerable skills and knowledge by offering guidance and advice to younger hunters. The following rules are in effect:

- To participate, young hunters under the age of majority do not require the federal Migratory Game Bird Hunting Permit;
- Young participants must comply with all existing safety and licensing requirements found in the Firearms Act and provincial hunting regulations;
- Participants must be accompanied by a licensed mentor over the age of majority; and
- Mentors may not hunt or carry a firearm, and may accompany no more than two young hunters.

Non-toxic shot must be used in **all** areas of Canada for migratory game bird hunting except for woodcock, Band-tailed Pigeons, and Mourning Doves. Within National Wildlife Areas, the possession of lead shot is prohibited for all hunting, including the hunting of migratory birds and upland game birds. Hunters should consult provincial or territorial regulations for additional restrictions.

For those birds still hunted with lead shot, remove the lead shot before cooking whenever possible in order to reduce your exposure to contaminants. As well, remove the skin and fat from fish-eating birds before cooking them.

Canadians may be exposed to the West Nile virus when bird-watching, hunting, or handling migratory birds and other wild game. Environment Canada recommends the Web site, maintained by Health Canada, for information about minimizing the risk of exposure (www.hc-sc.gc.ca/english/westnile/animals.html).

CRIME STOPPERS
The Canadian Wildlife Service has joined forces with New Brunswick Crime Stoppers to address offences concerning migratory birds. Anyone wishing to report illegal hunting activities, illegal selling of birds, or other offences related to migratory birds is asked to call Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS (8477). Your call is anonymous, and you may be eligible for a cash reward.

OPEN SEASONS IN NEW BRUNSWICK (No open season for Harlequin Ducks)

Area	Ducks (other than Harlequin Ducks) and geese WATERFOWLER HERITAGE DAY	Ducks (other than Harlequin Ducks), geese, and snipe	Additional season for Common and Red-breasted Mergansers, Oldsquaw*, eiders and scoters in coastal waters only	Woodcock
Zone No. 1	September 18	October 15 to January 3	February 1 to February 29	September 15 to November 30
Zone No. 2	September 18	October 1 to December 18	No additional season	September 15 to November 30

* Oldsquaw ducks are now referred to as Long-tailed Ducks.

BAG AND POSSESSION LIMITS IN NEW BRUNSWICK

Limits	Ducks (other than Common and Red-breasted Mergansers, Oldsquaw*, Harlequin Ducks, eiders, and scoters)	Common and Red-breasted Mergansers, Oldsquaw,* eiders, and scoters	Geese	Woodcock	Snipe
Daily bags	6(a)	6(c)	5	8	10
Possession	12(b)	12(d)	10	16	20

(a) Not more than three may be American Black Ducks.
(b) Not more than six may be American Black Ducks.
(c) Not more than four may be scoters and in Zone No. 1 from February 1 to February 25, not more than four eiders may be taken daily.
(d) Not more than eight may be scoters and in Zone No. 1 from February 1 to February 25, not more than eight eiders may be possessed.
* Oldsquaw ducks are now referred to as Long-tailed Ducks.

Canada

REPORT YOUR MIGRATORY BIRD BANDS:
CALL 1-800-327-BAND (2263)

Quebec

Migratory Birds Hunting Regulations, 2004

Summary

[illegible]
1100, route de l'Église
P.O. Box [illegible]
Sainte-Foy, Quebec
G1V 4H3
Tel.: 1 [illegible]
Fax: (418) [illegible]
URL: www.[illegible]

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- [illegible]

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[illegible]

[illegible]

NOTE: Waterfowler Heritage Day is September 11 for districts B, C, D and E, September 10 for districts F, G, H, I and J. The opening hunting date for ducks is September 18 for districts B, C, D and E, September 25 for districts F, G, H, I, and J. Hunting [illegible] is allowed in hinterland in district E from September 4 to September 17. In district G, the prohibition against hunting Canada Geese between [illegible] and 170 is declared. The non-hunting areas of Saint-Ours de Kamouraska, Ile Bonvin, Ile Fournon, Port Sudet and Isaac-Parks Bay, have abolished.

OPEN SEASONS IN QUEBEC (No open season for Harlequin Ducks or [illegible])

Area	Ducks (other than Harlequin Ducks), geese, Sandhill Crane (see WATERFOWLER HERITAGE DAY)	Ducks (other than [illegible] Harlequin, and Long-tailed Ducks*), geese (other than Canada and Snow geese) and snipe	Canada Geese	Eiders and Long-tailed Ducks*	Coots and Gallinules	Woodcock
A	[illegible]	Sept. 1 to Dec. 16	Sept. 1 to Dec. 16	Sept. 1 to Dec. 31	No open season	Sept. 1 to Dec. 16
B	Sept. 11	Sept. 18 to Dec. 26	Sept. 18 to Dec. 26	Dec. 1 to Sept. [illegible]	No open season	Sept. 11 to Dec. 22
C, D and E	Sept. 11	Sept. 18 to Dec. 26 and Sept. 25 to Dec. 26	Sept. 4 to Sept. 17 and Sept. 18 to Dec. 21	Sept. 18 to Dec. 26	No open season	Sept. 18 to Dec. 26
F, G, H, and I	Sept. 11 and [illegible]	Sept. 25 to Dec. 26 and Sept. 25 to Dec. 26	Sept. 4 to Sept. 30 and Sept. 25 to Dec. 21	Sept. 25 to Dec. 26	Sept. 25 to Dec. 26	Sept. 18 to Dec. 26
J	Sept. 18	Sept. 25 to Dec. 26	Sept. 25 to Dec. 26	Sept. 1 to Feb. 10	No open season	Sept. 25 to Dec. 26

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

Ontario

Migratory Birds Hunting Regulations, 2004

Summary

The information presented here is a summary of the law. For complete information on these general prohibitions, permitted hunting methods and equipment, the need to remove heads, restrictions on using birds, description of hunting districts, and other restrictions on hunting, contact:

Canadian Wildlife Service
Environment Canada
P.O. Box 5050, 867 Lakeshore Road
Burlington, Ontario
L7R 4A6
(905) 336-4650

Check your partial and provincial regulations for additional restrictions.

Non-toxic shot must be used in all areas of Canada for migratory game bird hunting except for woodcock, Band-tailed Pigeons, and Mourning Doves. Within National Wildlife Areas, the possession of lead shot is prohibited for all hunting, including migratory birds and upland game birds. Hunters should consult provincial or territorial regulations for additional restrictions.

For those birds still hunted with lead shot, remove the lead shot before smoking whenever possible in order to reduce your exposure to contaminants. As well, remove the skin and fat from fish-eating birds before cooking them.

Canadians may be exposed to the West Nile virus when bird-watching, hunting, or handling migratory birds and other wild game. Environment Canada recommends the Web site, maintained by Health Canada, for information about maintaining the risk as low as possible: www.hc-sc.gc.ca/english/westnile/animals.html.

Note that hunting restrictions have been put in place for the Wolfe Island area to address concerns over the Ausable River mix of this area by waterfowl. As a result, hunting will be permitted on the Wolfe Island area only when hunters are on the island, on the shores in the shoreline marsh, or on a duck within 20 metres of the shore.

Hunting Districts

1. Western – James Bay Districts
   waters that part of the Province of Ontario comprising Wildlife Management Units 1-A, 1-B, and the portions of Wildlife Management Units 15, 23 and 24 lying east of longitude 83°00' and north of latitude 51°.
2. Northern District
   Wildlife Management Unit 1C, those parts of 10, 23 and 24 lying west of longitude 83°00' and north of latitude 51°, and Wildlife Management Units 2-36, 37-41 and 45.
3. Central District
   Wildlife Management Units 42-44, and 46-79
4. Southern District
   Wildlife Management Units 80A and 81-97

OPEN SEASONS IN ONTARIO (No open season for Harlequin Ducks)

Area	Ducks (other than Harlequin Ducks, Eiders (other than Yellow Nosed and King Eiders), Common Merganser, American Coots, Common Snipe, Cranes (other than Canada Cranes))	Canada Geese[a]	Woodcock
1. Western – James Bay District	Sept. 1 to Dec. 15	Sept. 1 to Dec. 15	Sept. 1 to Dec. 15
2. Northern District	Sept. 19 to Dec. 15	Sept. 1 to Dec. 15	Sept. 15 to Dec. 15
3. Central District	Sept. 18 to Dec. 29	Sept. 1 to Dec. 28[b]	Sept. 29 to Dec. 29
4. Southern District	Sept. 25 to Dec. 30[c]	Sept. 18 to Dec. 28[d] Sept. 1 to Sept. 17[e] and Sept. 11 to Dec. 27[f][g] and Sept. 22 to Dec. 30[h][i] and Nov. 1 to Jan. 7[j][k] and Jan. 15 to Jan. 23[g][l] and Feb. 21 to Feb. 24[m][n]	Sept. 27 to Dec. 30[o]

a) In Wildlife Management Units 11 to 41 inclusive.
b) In Wildlife Management Units 42 to 77 inclusive.
c) In Wildlife Management Units 69A, 81, 78, 71 inclusive, 72A (excluding the Township of Hallowell), 72B to 91 inclusive, 93 (excluding the Township of Grand Washington, which includes Long Point), and 94 to 97 inclusive.
d) In Wildlife Management Units 44, 64 (excluding any part of Hamilton County other than the Township of Brudenell, Lyndoch and Raglan), 65 to 69 inclusive.
e) In Wildlife Management Units 69A, 81, 78 to 91 inclusive, and 94.
f) In Wildlife Management Units 94.
g) In Wildlife Management Units 69A, 81, 64, 64 (excluding any part of Renfrew County other than the Township of Brudenell, Lyndoch and Raglan), 65 to 69 (excluding the Island Canada of Pelee), and Pelee Island), 78 to 91 inclusive.
h) In Wildlife Management Units 69A, 81, 64, 64 (excluding any part of Renfrew County other than the Township of Brudenell, Lyndoch and Raglan), 65 to 69 (excluding the Island Canada of Pelee), and Pelee Island), 78 to 91 inclusive, 93 (excluding the Township of Hillsborough), 72B to 89 inclusive, 90 (excluding the Township of Grand Washington, which includes Long Point), and 94 to 97 inclusive.
i) Hunters shall hunt migratory birds on the following Sundays during the hunting season in the Southern District: from September 12 to December 26 inclusive, and January 16, and February 20. Those Sunday restrictions do not apply, and Sunday hunting is permitted, in the Island Canada of Pelee and Pelee Island, in the Township of Hillsborough in the County of Wellington/Halton, and in the islands in Hastings District of the County of Prince Edward, other than the Township of Brudenell, Lyndoch and Raglan. Sunday restrictions do not apply to American coots may have only duck or Canada Goose limit exceeded. 45 to December 19 inclusive.
j) In Wildlife Management Units 69A, 81, 64, 64 (excluding any part of Renfrew County other than the Township of Brudenell, Lyndoch and Raglan), 65 to 69 (excluding the Island Canada of Pelee), and Pelee Island), 78 to 91 inclusive, 93 (excluding the Township of Hillsborough), 72B to 89 inclusive, 90 (excluding the Township of Grand Washington, which includes Long Point), and 94 to 97 inclusive.
k) In Wildlife Management Units 69A, 81, 64, 64 (excluding any part of Renfrew County other than the Township of Brudenell, Lyndoch and Raglan), 65 to 69 (excluding the Island Canada of Pelee), and Pelee Island), 78 to 91 inclusive, 93 (excluding the Township of Hillsborough), 72B to 89 inclusive, 90 (excluding the Township of Grand Washington, which includes Long Point), and 94 to 97 inclusive.
l) In Wildlife Management Units 69A, 81, 64, 64 (excluding any part of Renfrew County other than the Township of Brudenell, Lyndoch and Raglan), 65 to 69 (excluding the Island Canada of Pelee), and Pelee Island), 78 to 91 inclusive, 93 (excluding the Township of Hillsborough), 72B to 89 inclusive, 90 (excluding the Township of Grand Washington, which includes Long Point), and 94 to 97 inclusive.
m) In Wildlife Management Units 69A, 81, 64, 64 (excluding any part of Renfrew County other than the Township of Brudenell, Lyndoch and Raglan), 65 to 69 (excluding the Island Canada of Pelee), and Pelee Island), 78 to 91 inclusive, 93 (excluding the Township of Hillsborough), 72B to 89 inclusive, 90 (excluding the Township of Grand Washington, which includes Long Point), and 94 to 97 inclusive.
n) In Pelee Island, 45 inclusive.
o) In Wildlife Management Units 69A, 81, 64, 64 (excluding any part of Renfrew County other than the Township of Brudenell, Lyndoch and Raglan), 65 to 69 (excluding the Island Canada of Pelee), and Pelee Island), 78 to 91 inclusive, 93 (excluding the Township of Hillsborough), 72B to 89 inclusive, 90 (excluding the Township of Grand Washington, which includes Long Point), and 94 to 97 inclusive.

* See below for modified provisions of Canada Goose Regulations for Southern District.

BAG AND POSSESSION LIMITS IN ONTARIO

Limit	Ducks (other than Harlequin Ducks)	Coots[a] (other than Sora) Common and Snipe	Sora[a]	Ducks (other than Yellow Nosed and King Eiders), American Coots, Common Snipe and Clapper Moorhens	Woodcock
Daily bags	6 birds	8 birds (25 in aggregate)	25	25	3
Possession	12 birds	16 birds (75 in aggregate)	75	75	9

a) The limit does not apply from June 16 to August 31 in Wildlife Management Units 1-A, 1-B, 1C, 2 to 36 inclusive, 37 to 41 inclusive, 45, 69A, 81, 78 to 91 inclusive, 93 (excluding the Township of Hillsborough), 72B to 89 inclusive, 90 (excluding the Township of Grand Washington), 94 to 97 inclusive.
b) The limit does not apply from September 1 to September 30 in Wildlife Management Units 1-A, 1-B, 1C, 2 to 36 inclusive, 37 to 41 inclusive, 45, 69A, 81, 78 to 91 inclusive, 93 (excluding the Township of Hillsborough), 72B to 89 inclusive, 90 (excluding the Township of Grand Washington), 94 to 97 inclusive.
c) The limit does not apply from September 1 to September 30 in Wildlife Management Units 1-A, 1-B, 1C, 2 to 36 inclusive, 37 to 41 inclusive, 45, 69A, 81, 78 to 91 inclusive, 93 (excluding the Township of Hillsborough), 72B to 89 inclusive, 90 (excluding the Township of Grand Washington), 94 to 97 inclusive.
d) The limit does not apply from September 1 to September 30 in Wildlife Management Units 1-A, 1-B, 1C, 2 to 36 inclusive and 45, 69A, 81, 78 to 91 inclusive, 93 (excluding the Township of Hillsborough), 72B to 89 inclusive, 90 (excluding the Township of Grand Washington), 94 to 97 inclusive.
e) "Any additional" Canada Geese may be taken daily and Summer additional Canada Geese may be possessed in Wildlife Management Units 42 and 77 from September 1 to September 15 inclusive, in Wildlife Management Units 69A, 81, 78 to 91 inclusive, 93 (excluding the Township of Hillsborough), 72B to 89 inclusive, 90 (excluding the Township of Grand Washington, which includes Long Point), and 94 to 97 inclusive, from September 1 to September 17 inclusive, in Wildlife Management Units 64 to 64, inclusive, but excluding any part of Renfrew County other than the Township of Brudenell, Lyndoch and Raglan, 65 to 69 (excluding the Island Canada of Pelee), and Pelee Island), 64 to 91 inclusive, 93 (excluding the Township of Hillsborough), 72B to 89 inclusive, 90 (excluding the Township of Grand Washington), 94 to 97 inclusive, from September 11 to September 25 inclusive, in Wildlife Management Units 69A to 64, inclusive, but excluding any part of Renfrew County other than the Township of Brudenell, Lyndoch and Raglan, 65 to 69 (excluding the Island Canada of Pelee), and Pelee Island), 64 to 91 inclusive, 93 (excluding the Township of Hillsborough), 72B to 89 inclusive, 90 (excluding the Township of Grand Washington), 94 to 97 inclusive, from September 18 to December 28 inclusive, in Wildlife Management Units 69A, 81, 78 to 91 inclusive, 93 (excluding the Township of Hillsborough), 72B to 89 inclusive, 90 (excluding the Township of Grand Washington), 94 to 97 inclusive, from September 25 to December 30 inclusive, in Wildlife Management Units 69A, 81, 64, 64 (excluding any part of Renfrew County other than the Township of Brudenell, Lyndoch and Raglan), 65 to 69 (excluding the Island Canada of Pelee), and Pelee Island), 78 to 91 inclusive, 93 (excluding the Township of Hillsborough), 72B to 89 inclusive, 90 (excluding the Township of Grand Washington), 94 to 97 inclusive, from February 1 to February 28 inclusive, 45 inclusive.

* See below for modified provisions of Canada Goose Regulations for Southern District.

SUMMARY OF CANADA GOOSE REGULATIONS IN THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF ONTARIO

Early Limit	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Late Limit	30	30	30	30	30	30	0	30	30	
Dates	1 Sept. to 11 Sept.	11 Sept. to 25 Sept.	25 Sept. to 1 Nov.	1 Nov. to 24 Dec.	24 Dec. to 27 Dec.	27 Dec. to 31 Dec.	31 Dec. to 1 Jan.	1 Jan. to 15 Jan.	15 Jan. to 28 Feb.	
Limit	1 Sept. to 11 Sept.	11 Sept. to 25 Sept.	25 Sept. to 1 Nov.	1 Nov. to 24 Dec.	24 Dec. to 27 Dec.	27 Dec. to 31 Dec.	31 Dec. to 1 Jan.	1 Jan. to 15 Jan.	15 Jan. to 28 Feb.	
Algonquin										
Allen	2					5		5	5	
Ar	5					5		5	5	
Ad		5			5			5	5	
Ar		Except part of Southern Co.			Except part of Southern Co.			Except part of Southern Co.	Except part of Southern Co.	
Ash		5			5			5	5	
Ash		5			5			5	5	
Ar		5			5			Except Prescott Council	Except Prescott Council	
Ca		5			5			5	5	
Ch		5			5			5	5	
Ch		5			5			5	5	
Ch		5			5			5	5	
Ch	5					5		5	5	
Ch	5					5		5	5	
Ch	Except Southwest					5		5	Except Southwest	
Ch	5					5		5	5	
Ch	5					5		5	5	
Ch	5					5		5	5

Manitoba

Migratory Birds Hunting Regulations, 2004

Watch for this loon on blue signs marking National Wildlife Areas and Migratory Bird Sanctuaries.

Summary

Game Bird Hunting Zones

The information presented here is a summary of the law. For complete information on fines, general prohibitions, permitted hunting methods and equipment, the need to retrieve birds, restrictions on using bait, description of hunting zones, and other restrictions on hunting, contact:

Wildlife Enforcement Coordinator
Environment Canada
Suite 150
123 Main Street
Winnipeg, Manitoba
R3T 4W2
(204) 983-5263

Check your permit and provincial regulations for additional restrictions.

Waterfowler Heritage Days provide young hunters under the age of majority with the opportunity to practise hunting and outdoor skills, learn about wildlife conservation, and reinforce safety training in a structured, supervised environment before the season opens for other hunters. Licensed adult hunters who serve as mentors have an opportunity to pass on their considerable skills and knowledge by offering guidance and advice to younger hunters. The following rules are in effect:

- To participate, young hunters under the age of majority do not require the federal Migratory Game Bird Hunting Permit;
- Young participants must comply with all existing safety and licensing requirements found in the Firearms Act and provincial hunting regulations;
- Participants must be accompanied by a licensed mentor over the age of majority; and
- Mentors may not hunt or carry a firearm, and may accompany no more than two young hunters.

Non-toxic shot must be used to hunt migratory birds in **all areas** of Canada. Within National Wildlife Areas, the possession of lead shot is prohibited for all hunting, including migratory birds and upland game birds. Hunters should consult provincial or territorial regulations for additional restrictions.

Canadians may be exposed to the West Nile virus when bird-watching, hunting, or handling migratory birds and other wild game. Environment Canada recommends the Web site, maintained by Health Canada, for information about minimizing the risk of exposure (www.hc-sc.gc.ca/english/westnile/animals.html).

Snow Goose call recordings may be used for the purpose of hunting Snow Geese, and, if decoys are also used, they must be white. While so doing, you may also take any migratory bird for which there is an open season.

OPEN SEASONS IN MANITOBA

Area	Ducks and geese WATERFOWLER HERITAGE DAY	Ducks, geese, coots, and snipe RESIDENTS OF CANADA	Ducks, Canada Geese, coots, and snipe NON-RESIDENTS OF CANADA	Sandhill Cranes RESIDENTS OF CANADA AND NON-RESIDENTS OF CANADA	Snow and Ross's geese NON-RESIDENTS OF CANADA
Zone 1	N/A	Sept. 1 to Oct. 31(b)	Sept. 1 to Oct. 31	No open season	Sept. 1 to Oct. 31(b)
Zone 2	Sept. 1 to Sept. 7	Sept. 8 to Nov. 30(b)	Sept. 8 to Nov. 30	Sept. 1 to Nov. 30(a)	Sept. 8 to Nov. 30(b)
Zone 3	Sept. 1 to Sept. 7	Sept. 8 to Nov. 30(b)	Sept. 27 to Nov. 30	Sept. 1 to Nov. 30	Sept. 20 to Nov. 30(b)
Zone 4	Sept. 1 to Sept. 7	Sept. 8 to Nov. 30(b)	Sept. 27 to Nov. 30	Sept. 1 to Nov. 30	Sept. 20 to Nov. 30(b)

(a) In provincial Game Hunting Area (GHA) 6 and 6A only.
(b) Snow Goose call recordings may be used for the purpose of hunting Snow Geese, and, if decoys are also used, they must be white. While so doing, you may also take any migratory bird for which there is an open season.

BAG AND POSSESSION LIMITS IN MANITOBA

Limits	Ducks RESIDENTS OF CANADA	Ducks NON-RESIDENTS OF CANADA	Canada Geese	Snow and Ross's Geese	Sandhill Cranes	Coots	Snipe
Daily bags	8(a)	8(c)	5(e)(g)	20	3	8	10
Possession	16(b)	16(d)	15(f)(h)	80	10	16	20

(a) In Zone 4 for Residents, not more than four may be Redheads or Canvasbacks in total.
(b) In Zone 4 for Residents, not more than eight may be Redheads or Canvasbacks in total.
(c) In Zone 4 for non-residents, not more than two may be Redheads or Canvasbacks in total.
(d) In Zone 4 for non-residents, not more than four may be Redheads or Canvasbacks in total.
(e) Except that in provincial GHA 25B of Zone 4, non-residents may not take more than three Canada Geese daily.
(f) Except that in provincial GHA 25B of Zone 4, non-residents may not possess more than nine Canada Geese.
(g) Except that in South Interlake Goose Management Area of Zone 4, residents and non-residents may not take more than three Canada Geese daily.
(h) Except that in South Interlake Goose Management Area of Zone 4, residents and non-residents may not possess more than nine Canada Geese.

NOTE:

The open season for hunting of geese by non-residents in Game Bird Hunting Zone 4, and the Provincial Game Hunting Areas 13A, 14, 14A, all that portion of Game Hunting Area 16 south of the North limit of township 33, Game Hunting Areas 18, 18A, 18B, 18C, 19, 19A, 19B, 20, 21A, 23A, and 25 as described in Manitoba Regulation 220/86 as filed on September 25, 1986, includes only that part of each day from one-half hour before sunrise to 12:00 noon, local time, from the opening date to October 8 inclusive, and on and after October 9 geese may be hunted from one-half hour before sunrise until one-half hour after sunset.

The Migratory Birds Regulations also provide for special conservation periods when hunters may take overabundant species. Please note that the additional hunting methods or equipment are permitted only during the special conservation periods. See the table below for details.

NOTE: Hunters interested in participating in a possible conservation harvest of Snow Geese next spring should keep their 2004–2005 federal permits.

MEASURES IN MANITOBA CONCERNING OVERABUNDANT SPECIES

Area	Period during which Snow Geese may be killed	Additional hunting method or equipment
Zone 1	August 15 to August 31	Recorded bird calls (a)(b)

(a) "Recorded bird calls" refers to the Snow Goose call.
(b) If decoys are used when hunting with recorded bird calls, decoys must be white.

Canada

REPORT YOUR MIGRATORY BIRD BANDS: CALL 1-800-327-BAND (2263)

Migratory Birds Hunting Regulations, 2004

Watch for this loon on blue signs marking National Wildlife Areas and Migratory Bird Sanctuaries.

Summary

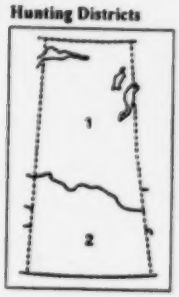
The information presented here is a summary of the law. For complete information on fines, general prohibitions, permitted hunting methods and equipment, the need to retrieve birds, restrictions on using bait, description of hunting districts, and other restrictions on hunting, contact:

Wildlife Enforcement Coordinator
Environment Canada
115 Perimeter Road
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan
S7N 0X4
Tel.: (306) 975-4919

Check your permit and provincial regulations for additional restrictions.

Non-toxic shot must be used to hunt migratory birds in **all areas** of Canada. Within National Wildlife Areas, the possession of lead shot is prohibited for all hunting, including the hunting of migratory birds and upland game birds. Hunters should consult provincial or territorial regulations for additional restrictions.

Hunting Districts



District No. 1 (North) Provincial Wildlife Management Zones 43 and 47–74 inclusive.

District No. 2 (South) Provincial Wildlife Management Zones 1–42 inclusive and 44–46 inclusive.

Canadians may be exposed to the West Nile virus when bird-watching, hunting, or handling migratory birds and other wild game. Environment Canada recommends the Web site, maintained by Health Canada, for information about minimizing the risk of exposure (www.hc-sc.gc.ca/english/westnile/animals.html).

Snow goose call recordings may be used for the purpose of hunting snow geese, and, if decoys are also used, they must be white. While so doing, any migratory bird for which there is an open season may also be taken.

NOTE: Hunters interested in participating in a possible conservation harvest of Snow Geese next spring should keep their 2004–2005 federal permits.

OPEN SEASONS IN SASKATCHEWAN

District	Ducks, coots, and snipe	Geese RESIDENTS OF SASKATCHEWAN	White geese (Snow and Ross's geese) NON-RESIDENTS OF SASKATCHEWAN	Dark geese (Canada and White-fronted geese) NON-RESIDENTS OF SASKATCHEWAN	Sandhill Cranes
No. 1 (North)	Sept. 1 to Dec. 16	Sept. 1 to Dec. 16(d)	Sept. 1 to Dec. 16(d)	Sept. 1 to Dec. 16	Sept. 1 to Dec. 16
No. 2 (South)	Sept. 1 to Dec. 16(a)	Sept. 1 to Dec. 16(b)(d)	Sept. 1 to Dec. 16(d)	Sept. 10 to Dec. 16	Sept. 1 to Dec. 16(c)

(a) Falconry season is open from September 1 to December 16 inclusive.
(b) Except White-fronted Geese; season for residents of Saskatchewan for White-fronted Geese is from September 10 to December 16 inclusive.
(c) The Last Mountain Lake National Wildlife Area is closed to all Sandhill Crane hunting.
(d) Snow Goose call recordings may be used for the purpose of hunting Snow Geese, and, if decoys are also used, they must be white. While so doing, you may also take any migratory bird for which there is an open season.

NOTE:
The open season for geese for residents and non-residents of Saskatchewan in District No. 2 (South), and the Provincial Wildlife Management Zones 43, 47 to 59 inclusive, and 67 to 69 inclusive, of District No. 1 (North) includes only that part of each day from one-half hour before sunrise to 12:00 noon, local time, from September 1 to October 14, inclusive, and on and after October 15 geese may be hunted from one-half hour before sunrise until one-half hour after sunset, except east of 106 degrees west longitude, where, on and after September 1, white geese (Snow and Ross's geese) may be hunted from one-half hour before sunrise until one-half hour after sunset.

BAG AND POSSESSION LIMITS IN SASKATCHEWAN

Limits	Ducks	Dark geese (Canada and White-fronted geese)	White geese (Snow and Ross's geese)	Sandhill Cranes	Coots	Snipe
Daily bags	8(a)	8(c)	20	5	10	10
Possession	16(b)	16(d)	60	10	20	20

(a) Not more than three may be Northern Pintails.
(b) Not more than six may be Northern Pintails.
(c) Not more than five may be White-fronted Geese.
(d) Not more than 10 may be White-fronted Geese.

Cranes
Where the Director General of the Canadian Wildlife Service or the Chief Provincial Game Officer of Saskatchewan is of the opinion that Whooping Cranes may be in the Saskatchewan Sandhill Crane Management Area during the open season for Sandhill Cranes in that area, such officer may prohibit the hunting of Sandhill Cranes in that area, and thereafter no person shall hunt or kill Sandhill Cranes in that area in that year.

Canada

REPORT YOUR MIGRATORY BIRD BANDS:
CALL 1-800-327-BAND (2263)

Migratory Birds Hunting Regulations, 2004

Watch for this loon on blue signs marking National Wildlife Areas and Migratory Bird Sanctuaries.

Summary

The information presented here is a summary of the law. For complete information on fines, general prohibitions, permitted hunting methods and equipment, the need to retrieve birds, restrictions on using bait, description of hunting zones, and other restrictions on hunting, contact:

Wildlife Enforcement Coordinator
Environment Canada
4999-98 Ave.
Edmonton, Alberta
T6B 2X3
(780) 951-8891

Check your permit and provincial regulations for additional restrictions.

Non-toxic shot must be used to hunt migratory birds in **all** areas of Canada. Within National Wildlife Areas, the possession of lead shot is prohibited for all hunting, including migratory birds and upland game birds. Hunters should consult provincial or territorial regulations for additional restrictions.

Hunting Zones

Hunters are advised to pay particular attention to the Alberta Hunting Guide to ensure that they are hunting for the correct species in the correct wildlife management unit during the permitted times and dates. Note that these zone numbers do not correspond to regions as presented in the Guide.

Canadians may be exposed to the West Nile virus when bird-watching, hunting, or handling migratory birds and other wild game. Environment Canada recommends the Web site, maintained by Health Canada, for information about minimizing the risk of exposure (www.hc-sc.gc.ca/english/westnile/animals.html).

OPEN SEASONS IN ALBERTA

Area	Ducks	Snow and Ross's geese	White-fronted and Canada geese	Coots and snipe	Falconry season for ducks, coots, and snipe
Zones 1(a), 2, 3, 4, and 8*	Sept. 1 to Dec. 16	Sept. 1 to Dec. 16	Sept. 1 to Dec. 16	Sept. 1 to Dec. 16	Sept. 1 to Dec. 16
Zones 5, 6, and 7*	Sept. 8 to Dec. 23	Sept. 8 to Dec. 23	Sept. 8 to Dec. 23	Sept. 8 to Dec. 23	Sept. 8 to Dec. 23

(a) Except that Alberta Wildlife Management Unit 841 in Zone 1 has an opening date of September 15.

* **"Zone No. 1"** means that part of Alberta included in Provincial Wildlife Management Units (PWMUs) 501–506, 509–512, 514–519, 529, 530–532 and 841;
"Zone No. 2" means that part of Alberta included in PWMUs 344, 347, 349, 350–360, 520–528, 534–537, 539, 540, 542 and 544;
"Zone No. 3" means that part of Alberta included in PWMUs 200, 202–204, 230, 232, 234, 236, 238, 240, 252, 254, 256, 258, 260 and 500;
"Zone No. 4" means that part of Alberta included in PWMUs 206, 208, 216, 220, 221, 222, 224, 226, 228, 242, 244, 246, 248, 250, 320, 322, 324, 326, 328, 330, 332, 334, 336–340, 342, 346, 348, 429, 507, 508 and 936;
"Zone No. 5" means that part of Alberta included in PWMUs 151, 160–163, 164 and 166;
"Zone No. 6" means that part of Alberta included in PWMUs 104, 106, 108, 110, 112, 128, 130, 132, 134, 136, 138, 140, 142, 152, 156, 158, 210, 212, 214, 300, 302–306, 308, 310, 312 and 314;
"Zone No. 7" means that part of Alberta included in PWMUs 102, 116, 118, 119, 124, 144, 148 and 150; and
"Zone No. 8" means that part of Alberta included in PWMUs 316, 318, 400, 402, 404, 406, 408, 410, 412, 414, 416–418, 420, 422, 426, 428, 430, 432, 434, 436–442, 444–446.

BAG AND POSSESSION LIMITS IN ALBERTA

Limits	Ducks	Snow and Ross's geese	White-fronted and Canada geese	Coots	Snipe
Daily bags	8(a)	20	8(c)	10	10
Possession	16(b)	60	16(d)	20	20

(a) Not more than four may be Northern Pintails.
(b) Not more than eight may be Northern Pintails.
(c) Not more than five may be White-fronted Geese.
(d) Not more than 10 may be White-fronted Geese.

Canada

REPORT YOUR MIGRATORY BIRD BANDS:
CALL 1-800-327-BAND (2263)

Migratory Birds Hunting Regulations, 2004

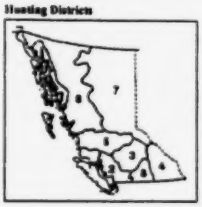
Words for this icon on blue signs marking National Wildlife Areas and Migratory Bird Sanctuaries

Summary

The information presented here is a summary of the law. For complete information on firm, general prohibitions, permitted hunting methods and equipment, the need to retrieve birds, restrictions on using bait, description of hunting districts, and other restrictions on hunting, contact:

Environment Canada
Canadian Wildlife Service
Pacific Wildlife Research Centre
R.R.1, 5421 Robertson Road
Delta, British Columbia V4K 3N2
(604) 940-4710

Hunting Districts



1. Provincial Management Units (PMU) 1-1 to 1-15.
2. PMU 2-2 to 2-19.
3. PMU 3-12 to 3-20 and 3-26 to 3-44.
4. PMU 4-1 to 4-9 and 4-14 to 4-40.
5. PMU 5-1 to 5-15.
6. PMU 6-1 to 6-30.
7. PMU 7-2 to 7-58.
8. PMU 8-1 to 8-15 and 8-21 to 8-26.

Waterfowler Heritage Days provide young hunters under the age of majority with the opportunity to practice hunting and outdoor skills, learn about wildlife conservation, and reinforce safety training in a structured, supervised environment before the season opens for other hunters. Licensed adult hunters who serve as mentors have an opportunity to pass on their considerable skills and knowledge by offering guidance and advice to younger hunters. The following rules are in effect:

- To participate, young hunters under the age of majority do not require the federal Migratory Game Bird Hunting Permit;
- Young participants must comply with all existing safety and licensing requirements found in the Firearms Act and provincial hunting regulations;
- Participants must be accompanied by a licensed mentor over the age of majority; and
- Mentors may not hunt or carry a firearm, and may accompany no more than two young hunters.

Check your permit and provincial regulations for additional restrictions.

Canadians may be exposed to the West Nile virus when bird-watching, hunting, or handling migratory birds and other wild game. Environment Canada recommends the Web site, maintained by Health Canada, for information about minimizing the risk of exposure (www.hc-sc.gc.ca/english/westnile/animals.html).

OPEN SEASONS IN BRITISH COLUMBIA

District	Ducks and geese WATERFOWLER HERITAGE DAY	Ducks, coots, and snipe	Snow and Ross's geese	Other geese	Brant	Band-tailed Pigeons	Mourning Doves
No. 1	Sept. 11 and 12(b) Oct. 2 and Sept	Oct. 9 to Jan. 21	Oct. 9 to Jan. 21	Oct. 9 to Jan. 21(a) Sept. 15 to Oct. 22(b)(c) Dec. 15 to Jan. 25(b)(c) Feb. 14 to March 10(b)(c)	No open season	Sept. 15 to Sept. 30	No open season
No. 2	Sept. 4 and 5(j)(r) Oct. 2 and 3(q)	Oct. 9 to Jan. 21(g)(h) Sept. 10 to Dec. 23(j)	Oct. 9 to Jan. 2(d) Feb. 20 to Mar. 10(d)	Oct. 9 to Jan. 21(e) Sept. 11 to Sept. 19(f)(h) Oct. 9 to Nov. 28(f)(h) Dec. 18 to Jan. 2(f)(h) Feb. 12 to Mar. 10(f)(h) Sept. 10 to Dec. 23(e)(j)	Mar. 1 to Mar. 10(h)(i)	Sept. 15 to Sept. 30(k)	No open season
No. 3	Sept. 4 and 5	Sept. 10 to Dec. 23	Sept. 10 to Dec. 23	Sept. 10 to Dec. 23(k) Sept. 10 to Sept. 14(l) Oct. 1 to Dec. 20(l) Feb. 20 to Mar. 10(l)	No open season	Sept. 15 to Sept. 30(k)	Sept. 1 to Sept. 30
No. 4	Sept. 4 and 5	Sept. 10 to Dec. 23	Sept. 10 to Dec. 23	Sept. 10 to Dec. 23	No open season	No open season	Sept. 1 to Sept. 30
No. 5	Sept. 11 and 12	Sept. 15 to Dec. 25	Sept. 15 to Dec. 25	Sept. 15 to Dec. 25	No open season	No open season	No open season
No. 6	Sept. 18 and 19(n)	Sept. 1 to Nov. 30(m) Oct. 1 to Jan. 13(n)	Sept. 1 to Nov. 30(m) Oct. 1 to Jan. 13(n)	Sept. 1 to Nov. 30(m) Oct. 1 to Jan. 13(n)	No open season	No open season	No open season
No. 7	N/A	Sept. 1 to Nov. 30	Sept. 1 to Nov. 30	Sept. 1 to Nov. 30	No open season	No open season	No open season
No. 8	Sept. 4 and 5	Sept. 12 to Dec. 23	Sept. 12 to Dec. 23	Sept. 12 to Dec. 23(o) Sept. 20 to Nov. 28(o) Dec. 20 to Jan. 9(o) Feb. 21 to March 10(o)	No open season	No open season	Sept. 1 to Sept. 30

(a) Provincial Management Units 1-3, and 1-7 to 1-15 inclusive, and for Canada Geese only.
(b) Provincial Management Units 1-1, 1-2, 1-4, 1-5, and 1-6 only, and for Canada Geese only.
(c) For Canada Geese only.
(d) Provincial Management Units 2-6 and 2-5 only.
(e) Provincial Management Units 2-5 to 2-7 inclusive, 2-9, 2-10, and 2-12 to 2-17 inclusive only, and for Canada Geese only.
(f) Provincial Management Units 2-2 to 2-4 inclusive, 2-8, 2-18, and 2-19 only, and for Canada Geese only.
(g) Provincial Management Units 2-2 to 2-10 inclusive and 2-12 to 2-19 inclusive.
(h) See provincial regulations for local restrictions.
(i) Provincial Management Unit 2-6 only.
(j) Provincial Management Unit 2-11 only.
(k) Provincial Management Units 3-12 to 3-19 inclusive, 3-30 to 3-35, and 3-38 to 3-44 inclusive for White-fronted and Canada geese, and Provincial Management Units 3-19, 3-20, 3-26 to 3-29, 3-36 and 3-37 inclusive for White-fronted Geese only.
(l) Provincial Management Units 3-19, 3-20, and 3-26 to 3-29, 3-36 and 3-37 inclusive and for Canada Geese only.
(m) Provincial Management Units 6-1, 6-2, 6-4 to 6-10 inclusive, and 6-15 to 6-30 inclusive only.
(n) Provincial Management Units 6-3 and 6-11 to 6-14 inclusive only.
(o) For White-fronted Geese only.
(p) For Ducks, Snow Geese and Ross's Geese only, and additionally, in Provincial Management Units 1-3, and 1-7 to 1-15 inclusive, for Canada Geese.
(q) Provincial Management Units 2-2 to 2-10 inclusive and 2-12 to 2-19 inclusive for ducks and Canada Geese only, and additionally, in Provincial Management Units 2-4 and 2-5 only, for Snow Geese and Ross's Geese.
(r) For ducks and Canada Geese only.
(s) Provincial Management Units 2-2 to 2-19 inclusive.
(t) Provincial Management Units 3-12 to 3-17 inclusive.

BAG AND POSSESSION LIMITS IN BRITISH COLUMBIA

Limits	Ducks	Geese	Coots	Snipe	Band-tailed Pigeons	Mourning Doves
Daily bags	8(a)(c)(d)(k) 7(b)(e)(f)(g)(i)	5(g)(i)	10	10	5	5
Possession	16(a)(c)(d)(k) 14(b)(e)(f)(g)(i)	10(g)(i)	20	20	10	10

(a) Not more than four may be Northern Pintails.
(b) Not more than eight may be Northern Pintails.
(c) Not more than four may be Canvasbacks.
(d) Not more than eight may be Canvasbacks.
(e) Not more than two may be goldeneyes.
(f) Not more than four may be goldeneyes.
(g) Not more than two may be Brant in Provincial Management Unit 2-6.
(h) Not more than four may be Brant in Provincial Management Unit 2-6.
(i) In Provincial Management Units 2-2 to 2-5 inclusive, 2-8, 2-18, and 2-19 only, a total of five Canada Geese can be taken daily.
(j) In Provincial Management Units 2-2 to 2-5 inclusive, 2-8, 2-18, and 2-19 only, a total of 10 Canada Geese can be in possession daily.
(k) Not more than two may be Harlequin.
(l) Not more than four may be Harlequin.

Canada

REPORT YOUR MIGRATORY BIRD BANDS
CALL 1-800-327-BAND (2263)

Nunavut

Migratory Birds Hunting Regulations, 2004

Watch for this loon on blue signs marking National Wildlife Areas and Migratory Bird Sanctuaries.

Summary

The information presented here is a summary of the law. For complete information on fines, general prohibitions, permitted hunting methods and equipment, the need to retrieve birds, restrictions on using bait, description of hunting areas, and other restrictions on hunting, contact:

Wildlife Enforcement Coordinator
Environment Canada
5204 50th Avenue, Suite 301
Yellowknife, NT
X1A 1E2
(867) 669-4730

Check your permit and territorial regulations for additional restrictions.

Non-toxic shot must be used to hunt migratory birds in **all** areas of Canada. Within National Wildlife Areas, the possession of lead shot is prohibited for all hunting, including migratory birds and upland game birds. Hunters should consult provincial or territorial regulations for additional restrictions.

For those birds still hunted with lead shot, remove the lead shot before cooking whenever possible in order to reduce your exposure to contaminants. As well, remove the skin and fat from fish-eating birds before cooking them.

Canadians may be exposed to the West Nile virus when bird-watching, hunting, or handling migratory birds and other wild game. Environment Canada recommends the Web site, maintained by Health Canada, for information about minimizing the risk of exposure (www.hc-sc.gc.ca/english/westnile/animals.html).

Snow Goose call recordings may be used for the purpose of hunting Snow Geese, and, if decoys are also used, they must be white. While so doing, you may also take any migratory bird for which there is an open season. **NOTE: Hunters interested in participating in a possible conservation harvest of Snow Geese next spring should keep their 2004–2005 federal permits.**

OPEN SEASONS IN NUNAVUT

Area	Ducks, geese, coots, and snipe
Throughout Nunavut	September 1 to December 10(a)

(a) Snow Goose call recordings may be used for the purpose of hunting Snow Geese, and, if decoys are also used, they must be white. While so doing, you may also take any migratory bird for which there is an open season.

BAG AND POSSESSION LIMITS IN NUNAVUT

Limits	Ducks RESIDENTS OF CANADA	Ducks NON-RESIDENTS OF CANADA	Geese RESIDENTS OF CANADA	Geese NON-RESIDENTS OF CANADA	Coots RESIDENTS OF CANADA AND NON-RESIDENTS OF CANADA	Snipe RESIDENTS OF CANADA	Snipe NON-RESIDENTS OF CANADA
Daily bags	25(c)(g)	8(c)(g)	15(b)(e)	5(a)(b)(e)	25	10	10
Possession	No limit(d)(h)	16(d)(h)	No limit(b)(f)	10(a)(b)(f)	No limit	No limit	20

(a) Except that non-residents may not take more than two White-fronted Geese daily and may not possess more than four.
(b) Except that on Akimiski Island and in its adjacent waters in James Bay, not more than three Canada Geese may be taken daily, and not more than 10 may be possessed.
(c) Except that on Akimiski Island and in its adjacent waters in James Bay, the daily bag limit for ducks is six, with not more than two American Black Ducks.
(d) Except that on Akimiski Island and in its adjacent waters in James Bay, the possession limit for ducks is 12, with not more than four American Black Ducks.
(e) Except that on the islands in James Bay east of 80°15'W longitude and south of 55°N latitude, or in their surrounding waters, the daily bag limit is 20 Snow Geese, five Canada Geese, and five other geese.
(f) Except that on the islands in James Bay east of 80°15'W longitude and south of 55°N latitude, or in their surrounding waters, the possession limit is 60 Snow Geese, 10 Canada Geese, and 10 other geese.
(g) Except that on the islands in James Bay east of 80°15'W longitude and south of 55°N latitude, or in their surrounding waters, the daily bag limit for ducks is six, with not more than four American Black Ducks and two Blue-winged Teal.
(h) Except that on the islands in James Bay east of 80°15'W longitude and south of 55°N latitude, or in their surrounding waters, the possession limit for ducks is 12, with not more than eight American Black Ducks and four Blue-winged Teal.

NOTE:
No person shall hunt earlier than one-half hour before sunrise or later than one-half hour after sunset, except north of the 60th parallel, where no person shall hunt earlier than one hour before sunrise or later than one hour after sunset.

Canada

REPORT YOUR MIGRATORY BIRD BANDS:
CALL 1-800-327-BAND (2263)

Environment Canada / Canadian Wildlife Service — Environnement Canada / Service canadien de la faune

Northwest Territories

Migratory Birds Hunting Regulations, 2004

Watch for this loon on blue signs marking National Wildlife Areas and Migratory Bird Sanctuaries.

Summary

The information presented here is a summary of the law. For complete information on fines, general prohibitions, permitted hunting methods and equipment, the need to retrieve birds, restrictions on using bait, description of hunting areas, and other restrictions on hunting, contact:

Wildlife Enforcement Coordinator
Environment Canada
5204 50th Avenue, Suite 301
Yellowknife, NT
X1A 1E2
(867) 669-4730

Check your permit and territorial regulations for additional restrictions.

Non-toxic shot must be used to hunt migratory birds in **all** areas of Canada. Within National Wildlife Areas, the possession of lead shot is prohibited for all hunting, including the hunting of migratory birds and upland game birds. Hunters should consult provincial or territorial regulations for additional restrictions.

For those birds still hunted with lead shot, remove the lead shot before cooking whenever possible in order to reduce your exposure to contaminants. As well, remove the skin and fat from fish-eating birds before cooking them.

Canadians may be exposed to the West Nile virus when bird-watching, hunting, or handling migratory birds and other wild game. Environment Canada recommends the Web site, maintained by Health Canada, for information about minimizing the risk of exposure (www.hc-sc.gc.ca/english/westnile/animals.html).

OPEN SEASONS IN THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

Area	Ducks, geese, coots, and snipe
Throughout the Northwest Territories	September 1 to December 10

BAG AND POSSESSION LIMITS IN THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

Limits	Ducks RESIDENTS OF CANADA	Ducks NON-RESIDENTS OF CANADA	Geese RESIDENTS OF CANADA	Geese NON-RESIDENTS OF CANADA	Coots RESIDENTS OF CANADA AND NON-RESIDENTS OF CANADA	Snipe RESIDENTS OF CANADA	Snipe NON-RESIDENTS OF CANADA
Daily bags	25	8	15	5(a)	25	10	10
Possession	No limit	16	No limit	10(a)	No limit	No limit	20

(a) Except that non-residents may not take more than two White-fronted Geese daily and may not possess more than four.

NOTE:
No person shall hunt earlier than one-half hour before sunrise or later than one-half hour after sunset, except north of the 60th parallel, where no person shall hunt earlier than one hour before sunrise or later than one hour after sunset.

Canada

REPORT YOUR MIGRATORY BIRD BANDS:
CALL 1-800-327-BAND (2263)

Environment Canada / Environnement Canada
Canadian Wildlife Service / Service canadien de la faune

Yukon

Migratory Birds Hunting Regulations, 2004

Watch for this loon on blue signs marking National Wildlife Areas and Migratory Bird Sanctuaries.

Summary

The information presented here is a summary of the law. For complete information on fines, general prohibitions, permitted hunting methods and equipment, the need to retrieve birds, restrictions on using bait, description of hunting areas, and other restrictions on hunting, contact:

Enforcement Coordinator
Canadian Wildlife Service
91782 Alaska Highway
Whitehorse, Yukon
Y1A 5B7
(867) 667-4597

Check your permit and territorial regulations for additional restrictions.

Non-toxic shot must be used in **all** areas of Canada for migratory game bird hunting except for woodcock, Band-tailed Pigeons, and Mourning Doves. Within National Wildlife Areas, the possession of lead shot is prohibited for all hunting, including migratory birds and upland game birds. Hunters should consult provincial or territorial regulations for additional restrictions.

For those birds still hunted with lead shot, remove the lead shot before cooking whenever possible in order to reduce your exposure to contaminants. As well, remove the skin and fat from fish-eating birds before cooking them.

Canadians may be exposed to the West Nile virus when bird-watching, hunting, or handling migratory birds and other wild game. Environment Canada recommends the Web site, maintained by Health Canada, for information about minimizing the risk of exposure (www.hc-sc.gc.ca/english/westnile/animals.html).

Hunting Areas

Northern Yukon Territory: All that portion of the Yukon Territory lying north of latitude 66°.

Southern Yukon Territory: All that portion of the Yukon Territory lying south of latitude 66°.

OPEN SEASONS IN THE YUKON TERRITORY

Area	Ducks	Geese	Sandhill Cranes	Rails and coots	Snipe
Northern Yukon Territory	Sept. 1 to Oct. 31	Sept. 1 to Oct. 31	No open season	Sept. 1 to Oct. 31	Sept. 1 to Oct. 31
Southern Yukon Territory	Sept. 1 to Oct. 31	Sept. 1 to Oct. 31	Sept. 1 to Oct. 31	No open season	Sept. 1 to Oct. 31

BAG AND POSSESSION LIMITS IN THE YUKON TERRITORY

Limits	Ducks	Geese	Sandhill Cranes	Rails and coots	Snipe
Daily bags	8(a)	5(b)	2	0(c)	10
Possession	24(a)	15(b)	4	0(c)	30(d)

(a) Except that in the Northern Yukon Territory 17 additional ducks may be taken per day, with no possession limit.
(b) Except that in the Northern Yukon Territory 10 additional geese may be taken per day, with no possession limit.
(c) Except that in the Northern Yukon Territory 25 rails and coots may be taken per day, with no possession limit.
(d) Except that in the Northern Yukon Territory there is no possession limit.

NOTE:
No person shall hunt earlier than one hour before sunrise or later than one hour after sunset.

Canada

REPORT YOUR MIGRATORY BIRD BANDS:
CALL 1-800-327-BAND (2263)